

# HUSAYN THE MARTYR

A Play In Six Scenes

BY  
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-SHARQAWI

Translated by  
Anam Abdul-Razzak

1997 - 1407



**The Open School**  
P.O. BOX 53573  
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

السَّلَامُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ ع

وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ ع

وَعَلَى وَلَادِ الْحُسَيْنِ ع

وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ الْحُسَيْنِ ع

A Salute to  
**IMAM**  
**HUSAYN,**  
HIS CHILDREN,  
HIS COMPANIONS,  
AND HIS FOLLOWERS.



The Open School

P.O. Box 51573  
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# Imam Husayn's Journey to Karbala



Scale 1:16,000,000

Polyconic Projection.

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— Route of Imam Husayn

... Route of Imam Ali

فاني لا ارى الموت الا سعادة  
والحياة مع الظالمين الا برما.  
الامام الحسين (ع)

Indeed, I do not see death as but  
happiness and the life with unjust  
people nothing but grief.

Imam Husayn (a)  
61/680 C.E.



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## In The Name of Allah The most Merciful, The Most Beneficent

The first who wrote about Imam Husayn's martyrdom in a theatrical play is the Egyptian writer Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi (1920-1987). He based the play on historical facts, as he had mentioned on page 121, but he did not say it in detail. This is a free translation of the play. The author is fully responsible for its contents.

Anam Abdul-Razzak

The characters of the play as they appear on the stage:

Sa'id Bin Sa'id	:	Husayn's supporter
Husayn Bin Ali	:	Husayn's son.
Bishr	:	Husayn's supporter, young boy
Burayr	:	Husayn's supporter, an elder from Kufa
Hurr al-Riyahi	:	A leader in Kufa's army
Zaynab	:	Husayn's sister
Shimr	:	A leader in Kufa's army
'Umar Bin Sa'd	:	the head of Kufa's army
Assad	:	An influential Kufan who owns property.
Habib B. Muthaher	:	Husayn's supporter from Kufa
Zuhayr Bin Alqyen	:	Husayn's supporter from Kufa
Nafi'	:	Husayn's supporter from Kufa
Bin 'Awsaja	:	Husayn's supporter from Kufa
Sukayna	:	Husayn's daughter
Zayn al-'Abidin	:	Husayn's son
Zayd Bin Arqam	:	An elder man from Kufa
Yazid Bin Mu'awia	:	
Yazid's Slave	:	
Yazid's Wife	:	
Mukhtar	:	Husayn's supporter

Some women and children, men, army, guards, merchants, boys.

The play's date	:	Year 60 Hijra / 680 C.E.
The last scene	:	Year 65 Hijra / 685 C.E.
The play's settings	:	Place in Iraq - Karbala Damascus - Syria



## The First Scene

(A place near Karbala where some hills appears and Husayn's men are scattered around. Said stands on one of the hills watching the far horizon under the glaring sun light that surrounds all over the place.)

- Sa'id : (On the highest hill) Allahu Akbar!
- Husayn : Allahu Akbar!  
Why are you saying Allahu Akbar Said?
- Sa'id : Can't you see that Kufa is appearing from afar where a lot of our friends and supporters are waiting for us? Can't you see through the palm trees? Can't you see the minarets and domes?
- Bishr : (Goes to another hill and looks further)  
No, but these are only spears and armor of horsemen.
- Burayr : (sound of horses gets closer and Burayr looks toward where Said was looking)  
Oh son of the Prophet, by God, these are not palm trees nor are they minarets or friends! If you know, these are only spears of the leaders of our people who have approached us.
- Bishr : (As he looks) But it is their flags ... they are not our flags. There it is, the horses appear under the flags like the wings of birds.
- Husayn: (Thinking and looking) flags of the wrongful kingdom. Flags of a humiliated monarch who humiliates people.
- Hurr : (HurraAlreih appears with full armor with some of his men)  
I am Hur. I have come.
- Husayn: Against us, or with us?
- Hurr : Against you.
- Sa'id : A blind person can not be blamed.
- Hurr : I am not blind, Said Bin Said.

Husayn: It only blinds hearts in chests.

Burayr : Oh Hur, can't you see the light of the truth and the truth is so clear. Or you were deceived as my elder friend was deceived before you!

Sa'id : Oh HurrAlreihl, do you walk in the foot steps of the son of the bastard. You, the one who is most courageous of the people of Kufa. You, the wisest of them. You go astray!  
Oh how will living be when the free man gets humiliated?

Hurr : I have asked God that I do not be tested with Husayn's affair.

Husayn: Then why by God have you come?

Hurr : I have come to bring you to Kufa.

Husayn: Why is that? Why going there?

Hurr : (Turns away from Husayn and from all the men)  
And not to allow you to go back until I get your allegiance [to Yazeid].

Husayn: Then it is war?

Hurr : (To himself) Oh God, excuse me from this fight.

Husayn: All of you know that I have come to save you from all your oppressors. All of you know that I have come to destroy the wrongful doings.

Hurr : I know that.

Husayn : Then be free as you are given the name free. I have not come to Kufa until you have written to me to come.

Hurr : Do you have any water? We are so thirsty....

Blshr : By God, you do not get a single drop until we tell Husayn.

Husayn: We do not forbid giving water to anyone who asks for it.

Bishr : We have little water left.

Husayn: How many people do you have with you?

Hurr : We are a thousand men.

Husayn: And my men Bishr? How many are left? How many?

Bishr : We are By God a thousand men. And we have some children, young people, and women, and we are in desperate need of water.

Husayn: Tomorrow, Bishr, we will go to the Euphrates to Get more water.  
(Husayn calls) divide the water between us and them and tomorrow will come relief.  
(Bishr go out from the right)

Hurr : Gods bless you.

Husayn: Where are your men?

Hurr : Behind the hill... dying from thirst  
God bless you.

Husayn: And may God guide you to the truth and save you from going astray.

Hurr : I am thirsty and walking in the heat has exhausted me.

Husayn: (To his men) Bring some water here.  
(laughing) so Hurr can cool down.  
(someone brings a pitcher of water and Hurr tries to drink so hastily that the water spills on the ground).

Hurr : What is wrong with the water? It does not go into my stomach.

Husayn: Bend the pitcher a little.  
(Husayn helps Hurr to drink)  
Like this.

Hurr : Oh son of the Prophet, may God never let you go thirsty.

Husayn: And may God make us to drink from the water of Alnaeim [name of heaven] on the day of thirst [on the day of judgment].

Sa'id : (To Hurr) Do you know who will give us water on that day? He (pointing to Husayn), by God, and Imam Ali.

Husayn: (Looking to the sky) It is time for noon prayer.  
(To Hurr) Do you lead the prayer with your men?

Hurr : No, son of Prophet, we'll all pray behind you.

Bishr : (Enters from front)  
We gave our water to the Iraqi army.

Sa'id : Oh Imam, the whole army has drunk water. They drank water to become stronger when fighting with us!

Husayn: Make Athan [calling for prayer].  
(The Athan sounds high. Husayn goes out to pray and the men go out behind him. Bishr and Sa'id stopped and the following conversation goes on).

Bishr : We'll stay here to guard you.

Sa'id : You are right, and I am staying with you.

Hurr : Said: I do not attack in a time of prayer. I have not gotten that low!

Sa'id : We are in the middle of Yazid's army. He and his father have killed a lot of pious men while they were kneeling or prostrating to Allah.

Hurr : (As he leaves) And do you think I raise my sword against Husayn?  
Oh God, excuse me from this fight.

Sa'id : (To Bishr) Do you know that there are some people among Hurr's men who pledged to Muslim [bin 'Aqil] to support Imam Husayn]. I am really amazed



how they turned to Yazeldl

- Bishr : Don't look for the answer in the people's hearts ... look for it in their pockets!
- Sa'id : Maybe you can bribe the hearts!
- Bishr : Every human being is a slave for their greed.
- Sa'id : Give me some water.. my mouth is dry.
- Bishr : There is no more water.
- Sa'id : (Shouts)  
Finished. What are you saying? I  
They drank all the water.  
The water is gone?! What a tragedy!  
Bishr how did the water finish??  
We are all finished!  
Oh, what a tragedy!
- Bishr : Some of them spilled the water  
over the ground because they were  
so hasty when drinking. Them and their  
horses drank.
- Sa'id : I wish if I were one of their horses or  
a piece of sand.  
We gave them water so they become stronger  
when fighting with us.  
And we are here dying from thirst?!  
Oh, Imam of the truth, how can that  
be? This is really astonishing.
- Bishr : Tomorrow we'll go to the Euphrates.
- Sa'id : Oh, tomorrow seems very far!
- Bishr : (sad) Thousands of people have left us.
- Sa'id : (angry) Let them go to hell.  
Only the bastards have left us.
- Bishr : (wondering) I wished that Imam Husayn did not  
tell the people that Muslim[one of Imam Husayn's  
supporters] has been killed.

- Sa'id : Imam Husayn is the closest one of us to Allah. He is the Imam of truth and he is sincere with people. That is why people follow him and believe him.
- Bishr : That's how we became hundreds after we were thousands. I have not told the truth in front of Hurr. We are only seven hundred.
- Sa'id : Oh brother there is no value for numbers in a matter like this. The donkeys are more than human today. The women are more than men today. (suddenly) Oh how I miss the women.
- Bishr : Oh Sa'id Bin Sa'id but I am.
- Sa'id : (Interrupts) Don't talk to me right now because I am getting more thirsty from all that talk. (Husayn enters with Hurr and Burayr and some Hurr's men.)
- Husayn: (Shouting) If you all see we are better to handle matters than those who rule by aggression, we will do that. But if you hate us and ignore the truth, we will leave.
- Hurr : I am ordered to bring you to Kufa by force to pledge (to Yazid).
- Husayn: I will face death before I do this I (Calling to his men) Ride on the horses.
- Hurr : (Objects) You will not ride.
- Husayn: May your mother mourn you I What do you want from us?
- Hurr : If another person has said this, I would have mentioned his mother with evil too but because your mother is the daughter of the Prophet, I cannot.
- Husayn: Oh Hurr, ask your men (talking to Hurr's men). Oh men speak up, why do you remain silent. Didn't you write to me complaining from oppression, Didn't you write that you want to overthrow Yazid Bin Mu'awiya. Didn't you curse Yazid ?! Didn't you pledge allegiance to me so I could spread justice among you and save you

from oppression. Why are you silent?  
 Didn't you say that only the son of Fatima  
 can be a leader ? There are your letters full  
 of your cries and the cries of the orphans  
 and the widowers. Why are you silent?  
 Speak !  
 Oh you men !  
 Now that I have come to close the doors  
 of wrongs, you raise your spears  
 against me ? I only want to bring you  
 to the right path.  
 I did not want there to be blind persecution  
 I wanted there to be peace and guidance.  
 I did not come here to raise a spear or  
 a sword among us.  
 (voices of women)  
 Oh Allah how we're alone and estranged.

Burayr : Curse those who frightened the family  
 of the Prophet.

Zaynab : Curse those who bring fear to us.

Burayr : Oh people cast down your looks !!

Zaynab : (Approaches) May Allah curse those  
 who frightened the pure from the family  
 of the Prophet.  
 (Hurr's men bow their heads)

Hurr : (Worries) Did I frighten the Prophet's  
 family? I ask Allah forgiveness.  
 Oh God, I ask You to forgive me.

Zaynab : (To Husayn) If the men had  
 betrayed you, don't blame them because  
 they are used to breaking their promises.  
 They will get what they deserve on the  
 day of judgment. So let us go to live  
 far away from here just like the men  
 of the cave.  
 So we do not see the lying faces and the  
 hypocritical smiles. So we don't see the  
 wrongs above the truth.  
 What can the pious find in the market  
 of slaves?  
 And by what weapon can the truth fight  
 against the armed thousands?

And the truth is alone, no one believes  
in it?! And the truth is abandoned !

- Burayr : (Sad) Oh you men, your fate is taking you  
to your deaths.(To Husayn) You've  
come with all your supporters to save  
them, and they faced you with your swords.  
They are used to betrayal. They've deceived  
your father and your brother before.
- Zaynab : They've sent to my brother thousands  
of letters to come, and when he came, they  
turned against him. Oh you traitors!
- Hurr : (Sad and holding his head) Oh son of the  
Prophet, then go back to a way that doesn't  
take you to Kufa or Madina
- Husayn : I am going in the way of the truth, I am  
not going back, or I die ? I
- Shimr : Oh Hurr!ve come with thousands  
of soldiers to support you.
- Hurr : Then go back, I don't need you.
- Husayn : (To Zaynab) Sister go back to the tent,  
return to the women.  
(Zaynab goes back).
- Shimr : (Shouting to Hurr) The prince Zeyad  
orders you.
- Hurr : (Interrupts) Oh son of Goshen, do not shout  
So the saying does not apply to you.
- Shimr : By your God, what saying do you mean ?
- Hurr : The verse of Allah in the Quran and it  
means "Surely the most hateful  
of voices is braying of the asses."
- Shimr : Do you meet me by these sayings and  
I am the messenger of your leader, the  
prince ? So listen to me I have an  
order for you.
- Hurr : Tell that to the leader of the army.  
Tell that to the son of Sa'd.



Shimr : (Takes a paper out and reads) It is an order to Hurr and son of Sa'd.(reading)\* When you meet Husayn son of Ali in the desert, surround him and don't let him get to water. If he pledges allegiance to me, bring him and his family to me as prisoners of war, and if he refuses to pledge, kill him and decapitate him. If you don't do what I order, choose a way to die and give the leadership of the army to Shimr.\*  
(Puts back the paper in his pocket.)

Hurr : Oh I swear by Allah that he (Husayn) will not pledge because he has a pure soul.

Shimr : I have told you what I was ordered. Let God be my witness. I am going to the son of Sa'd.

Hurr : May God curse you and the son of Sa'd.

Husayn : Who ever pledges to an oppressor will be participating in the oppressor's crime. That's what my Grandfather, the Prophet, told me since I was young. So, Hurr, choose your way.

Hurr : May Allah praise the Prophet and his family. Oh son of the Prophet, can't you obey the order of Zeyad ?

Husayn : My religion forbids me to do that.

Hurr : You will be killed if you fight.

Husayn : Do you think I am afraid of dying ?

Hurr : If they kill you, they will not abide by any human rule after that. Oh son of the Prophet, don't embarrass me, and pledge, then go do what ever you want. I am ordered to fight you.

Husayn: Do you want only my death ?

Hurr : So I'll take you to a place where there is no water, no protection.

Husayn : (Faces the sky) I am burdened with

what I carry. Oh God, ease my difficulty  
and open my chest and solve its....

Hurr : (Asking God) Oh God.

Burayr : (To Hurr) What you gain in the hereafter  
from what you're doing now and you became  
a tool for oppression?  
Oh Hurr be free and fear the punishment.  
Of Allah on the day of judgment.  
Haven't you thought of death? Think if you  
die.

Sa'id : (continuing) When nothing can save you.

Husayn : Why when one of you have risen and  
called the people to the right path,  
you stood in his way.  
I am walking through thorns for the  
sake of religion, in the way of the  
people who didn't go astray.  
I am bringing down the curtains of  
deceit. I am endowed to carry out  
this matter since I became aware  
of things.  
I am taking the wrongful cover  
from the face of truth, so by God,  
Hurr why do you stand against me ?

Hurr : (sad) I am obliged to do it

Husayn : My only relief is this is just a little  
pain comparing to what my  
Grandfather has experienced.

Hurr : And that is the best relief.

Husayn : And that is why my grandfather  
had said "You are from me Husayn."

Hurr : I have heard the Prophet say...

Burayr : (continuing) He said (meaning the  
Prophet) "Don't hurt Husayn  
bin Ali. He is from me. He is the  
pupil of my eyes."

Sa'id : So Hurr, do you know against

whom you are raising your sword ?

Hurr : I have not raised my sword yet.  
I have pledged allegiance to Yazid before  
and Bin Hend took my pledge  
so it is in my trust. Now that  
Bin Hend is dead, I go break  
that pledge? This is not the  
behavior of a free man !

Sa'id : (Making fun) And the free man  
came to frighten the Prophet's  
family into obeying the corrupt, transgressor  
leader Yazid, the leader of wrongful  
doings  
Or obeying the bastard Bin Zeyad II

Hurr : I have asked Allah that I do not  
be tested in the matter of  
Husayn

## The Second Scene

(In Karbala.. a mean desert where the red sun is setting. The stage is two levels. The first level is down where the barracks of Husayn's enemy are and behind them is the Euphrates river. Hurr stands near a tent. The second level is higher and shows sand and stones where Husayn and his followers stay. On the far left the tent of the women appears.)

Husayn : Here is where Hurr will leave us? Where there is no water, no protection, no support ?

Burayr : I am sad, Oh son of the Prophet.  
I feel deep burns and pain and I am about to cry !

Sa'id : They have overcome us, they are thousands and we are.. How many are we ?

Husayn : We were thousands, How many of us are left ?

Bishr : Two hundred!

Husayn : Seventy of them is your family.  
children, women.

Bishr : I almost about to cry from what is happening

Sa'id : And I am also sad

Husayn : What will a caravan full of beloved ones leave when it travel away except deep sorrow, pain, and echoes .

Sa'id : I am thirsty..

Husayn : Where are we now ?

Burayr : In Neynawa

Husayn : What is its other name ?

Burayr : The ground of the river



Sa'id : And they also call it Karbala

Husayn : Yes, it is Karbala  
I will be killed here  
my fate has drawn death for me here

Sa'id : Do not say that, I will guard you with  
my life

Burayr : All of us will die before that happens

Bishr : I am thirsty

Husayn : Are'nt we near a river ?

Bishr : We are near the Euphrates

Husayn : Then go get some water  
and get water for the horses  
too.

Sa'id : Oh grandson of the Prophet  
they have prohibited us water

Husayn : How ? Why, this is impossible  
(calling to Hurr)  
Oh Hurr why do you forbid  
us from water ?  
(Hurr appears and behind him  
is the Euphrates river)

Hurr : The prince, Bin Zeyad says there  
is no water for you all

Husayn : I am thirsty and my men, my  
children, my family are all thirsty

Hurr : It is the order of the prince,  
Bin Zeyad  
Give the pledge and you and  
all of you will drink as you wish

Husayn : He does not own this water  
to give orders who will drink  
and who will not. This water  
belongs to Allah, so Hurr be free  
truly

Sa'id : He is not free when the prince

orders him

Husayn : May Allah not give you water  
on the day of the biggest thirst if  
you've made us thirsty

Hurr : Do not blame me because I am  
obliged to carry out the order  
despite my objection

Husayn : May Allah curse those who disobey  
Him to please others

Hurr : (frightened) I do not bear that ..  
I don't bear the curse of the  
grandson of the Prophet

Bishr : Does Hurr forget that we gave  
him and his men water ?

Sa'id : If we had forbidden you from our water,  
we would still have enough water.

Burayr : Pigs and animals drink from this  
water (Euphrates), and they forbid  
the Prophet's family from drinking ?

(Sukayna comes out from the tent  
looking pale)

Sukayna : I am thirsty father

Voices from far : Thirst .. thirst..

(Shimr appears from behind a tree  
in the first level)

Shimr : I swear none of you will drink until  
you face death

Hurr : (from another side) Oh God forgive me

Burayr : Oh Hurr do you remember when you  
fought in Saffin what Ali did ?  
He could've forbid the enemy from  
drinking water until they die,  
but he did not. Do you remember

that ? And he gave water to all of them

Hurr : (shouting) Bin Sa'd, leader of the army. Come here

`Umar Bin Sa'd : Who is that ?

Hurr : I am HurrAlrehel calling you hurry up

(Umar Bin Sa'd appears from a tent in the beginning of the stage in the first level where the trees on the sides and the moon in the sky overlooking the hills where Husayn and his followers appear. Behind them is big desert and the sun is down now)

`Umar : You come . Here is garden and river.

(voices of women and children from Husayn tent)

Voices : Thirst ..... Thirst  
(some men voices ) Thirst ..... thirst

(Hurrgoes toward `Umar and the moon is up and there is still some redness in the horizon. Zaynab comes out from the tent and looks toward the trees on the other side where Hurrrhad gone to see `Umar, then looks toward Husayn and the cries of the thirst continue.)

Voices of women : Thirst .... thirst

Zaynab : (To Husayn) You've become between teeth and claws !

Husayn : (to his men) I am giving you permission to leave. You are free from your pledge to me. You have no restraints or crime This is night coming, so go in the night and let every one of you take one child of mine in his hand

Sa'id : And why should we stay alive after you're gone ?

Burayr : And what will we say to your

grandfather on the day of judgment ?

Bishr : Will we say we left our Imam by himself  
without fighting with him with a spear  
or a sword ..?!

(Four men approaching carrying water  
come to Husayn and put the water  
in front of him. The men are: Habib  
Bin Muthaheer, Zuheir Bin Alqyen,  
Nafa'h Bin Helal and Bin `Awsaja

Burayr : (Hugging one of them) Habib Bin Mathaheer

Sa'id : (Hugging another) And Zuheir ? Oh Bin Alqyen  
welcome ..

Husayn : (shakes their hands warmly and stay by one of them)  
Bin `Awsaja ? How were the people when you  
left them

Bin `Awsaja : Oh sons of the Prophet drink now.

Husayn : No, I will be the last one to drink  
let others drink  
(Sa'id, Bishr, Burayr, and some others  
drink water)

Husayn : And let the women and children drink  
(Sa'id and some men take the water and go  
left toward the women's tent where Zaynab  
is standing. Bishr take some water and goes to  
the right toward some other men)

(the women and men hurry up to the water  
to drink)

Husayn : Thank God, all the people will drink now  
even if it is a drop

Bin `Awsaja : (Offers Husayn some water)  
By God, drink a little

Husayn : Did all the people drink ?

Zaynab : (From her place) All drank and  
thank Allah. Go ahead and drink  
some



- Husayn : (takes a little and returns the bottle to Bin `Awsaja)  
That is enough for me, keep it, you might need it tomorrow
- Bin `Awsaja : You save a drop of water so we can drink tomorrow, and there lies the Euphrates river in front of you ?  
Curse them !
- Husayn : How are the people when you left ?
- Bin `Awsaja : I left them in a bad situation
- Husayn : How are the people in Kufa ? Tell me Zuhair
- Zuhair : Betrayal and humiliation.  
The bribes are spreading so they abandoned their pledge to you,  
and the rest of the people have no say
- Habib : But their swords are against you
- Bin `Awsaja : Their hearts are with you but their swords are against you
- Husayn : How is that ? These hearts are full of hate for Yazid ..  
They are still holding them..  
They are the same hearts that beat with love, justice, and dreams of freedom...  
They did not take their hearts away and they have not lost their senses ..  
So why would they raise their swords against us ? I  
For animosity or for revenge ? !
- Bin `Awsaja : Oh, I wish if I can take this pain from you.  
I wish if I had a thousand lives to forsake to support you..
- Husayn : Oh, Bin Alqyan is this how my supporters in Kufa turned ..

to be thorns in my back ??

- Zuhair : (hurting) All the leaders of Kufa turned against you
- Husayn : Oh, Nafi' Is this how Kufa betrays me ? Say something Why are you silent ?
- Nafi' : The poor of Kufa are still supporting you
- Husayn : But the poor are humiliated No poor can stand and argue
- Nafi' : I don't know what is in the hearts of others. Some are greedy, some are avenguous and some...  
But I have set my mind to fight to support you until I die  
(`Umar, Hurr, Shmr, and Asad are standing in front of `Umar Bin Sa'd's tent.)
- `Umar : Three of the best of Kufa are joining with Husayn
- Shmr : But four
- `Umar : They have family in our army and they can influence the people. They are going to spoil the army's moral
- Hurr : There is Bin `Awsaja, he is the one who led the army in Atherbeagan..  
All of us owe him a lot.
- Shmr : And Habib Bin Mathaheer
- Asad : Zuhair Bin Alqyan is the best fighter with a sword
- `Umar : And there is Nafi'
- Hurr : We all know how Nafi'

can influence the soldiers

Asad : If they did not listen to Husayn  
they would not listen to others

`Umar : Do not take it easy... They might  
tempt our soldiers because of their  
kinship

Shlmr : I will take care of your enemy

`Umar : (Making fun of) Take care of your  
self first. Go and cut off the roads  
to Kufa so you can cut off any one  
who thinks of joining Husayn  
(Shlmr leaves hurrying)

Sukayna : (Sukayna comes to stand by her  
aunt, Zaynab, in the other level  
of the stage)  
Those drops of water boiled  
my thirst more. We do not  
have any more water ?

Voices from back : Thirst... thirst...  
(a man carries a pitcher of water  
and goes toward Husayn's  
barracks)

The Man : (To `Umar Bin Sa'd men)  
Oh you Infidels you became  
harder than the stones  
I am going to give them water  
(Shlmr goes and breaks the pitcher  
of water, the water spills to the  
ground, then he kills the man.  
The voice of the dying man sounds  
high in the stage)

Hurr : (hurting) he died a martyr. He  
has heaven, and we will live  
with a curse

Asad : I am one of the leaders of the city.  
Nothing will break us. We, Hurr  
have power and influence

Hurr : Oh, you cursed leaders I

- Burayr : (From the hill) Woe to you  
people of Kufa woe to you  
Every drink you take will  
become boiling fire inside you
- `Umar : (From under) He will not drink  
until he dies
- Burayr : What do you want from him(Husayn)  
let him go back
- `Umar : Either the pledge or his head
- Bin `Awsaja : Do you transgressor, remember Wahshy  
the killer of Hamza
- `Umar : The killer of Hamza repented and became  
a Muslim.
- Zuhair : But he remained drunk and the curse raced  
him every where he went... the echo of the  
anger of the Prophet. So how do you now  
forbid the Prophet's family from drinking  
from the flowing water of the river. You made  
his loved ones thirsty
- `Umar : Shut up .. May Allah shut you up .. Shut up
- Zaynab : (angry) Do not mention the name of Allah.  
You, how dare you, you have come to stab  
the Prophet's heart  
Oh `Umar .. look  
Oh Asad .. look  
Oh Hurr.. look  
In the horizon, there is the Prophet of Allah  
looking at you  
I can hear him crying..  
Oh, my grandfather !! .. I can hear his praying  
Oh, Allah ..!  
I can see tears from his blessed eyes  
come down to wet his holy beard  
Look `Umar .. Can you not see ? !  
What are you going to say to my grandfather  
when you see him  
Do you say we have come to eradicate  
your family? Peace be upon you.  
We have come to kill your son  
peace be upon you.  
We have made your family thirsty

peace be upon you.  
We have come to violate your women?  
peace be upon you.  
(men from 'Umar's barracks fill the  
front of the stage)

'Umar's Men : Peace be upon the Prophet and on  
his family

'Umar : (Pointing to Zaynab) She is going  
to break the army's moral  
(calling Zaynab) Oh, the lady  
of the house of the Prophet

Zaynab : Go away you the one who  
betrayed his father  
the one who sold his religion,  
and the hereafter, for this  
short life.  
(Husayn takes his sister  
and tries to send her back to  
the tent)

Husayn : Zaynab go back for now..

Zaynab : (As she and Sukayna go back)  
You (meaning Husayn)  
have become between teeth  
and claws

(Zaynab and Sukayna go back  
Husayn and his men scatter  
on the hill. Only 'Umar Bin Sa'd  
and his men remain on the lower  
level of the stage - they appear  
whispering. One of the men, a  
merchant, approaches 'Umar, with him  
is the young man who informed  
Zeyad about Muslim Bin Aqiel.  
He is dressed in a leader's clothes.)

The Merchant : Tell us Bin Sa'd..  
If we die here, what kind of faith  
will we have ?

'Umar : (frightened) Are you insane ?

The young man: No, we came to kill



- `Umar : That is right oh leader ...  
You became very wise despite  
your young age ..
- The Merchant : (Looking mean and down at the  
young man and talking to the  
others) Yesterday, this big leader  
was just a young boy working for  
me and cheating on the balance  
when weighing for the people.
- The young boy : (shouting) You are just a soldier  
here, do not say these things  
to some one like me, I am a leader  
now
- The Merchant : (To `Umar) When the war ends, I am  
going to be a killer with claws and teeth  
used to destroy and kill ? !.. Oh God  
Tell me `Umar ..
- `Umar : (Interrupting) You are insane ..strange ..
- The Merchant : I am invited to kill someone who I  
do not know, and there is no revenge  
or animosity between us I  
So when the war ends and I come back  
with the blood on my hands ..Blood of  
a human being who has a heart, who  
has dreams, children, a spouse, and a lot  
of beloved ones .. a whole past and  
a future ..How then by Allah that I  
can carry any love to a child ?  
How can I sleep with my wife  
any more, I am the one who butchered  
a human being !!?? The flesh of  
human beings is not like a piece of  
cheese so one can cut it by knife and  
butchered ..
- Hurr : (hurting) That is how you become  
one of our heroes ! If you believed in  
this war, you would not think like  
that
- `Umar : (seriously) The killer of one person  
is a criminal, the killer of many  
people is a murderer. But in a war is

different, the killer of twenty people is a hero, and the one who kills hundreds is even more of a hero, and the one who kills thousand gains wealth, admiration and the respect of all men

Hurr : (Making fun) Oh you merchant that is why you should not complain from killing .. you should be happy.. So go on and kill so we will become a hero.. as many as you kill as much as you become more hero .. so kill them all.. That is how much a human being worth in a war.. so who is going to escape ? !

The Merchant : What if I die ? What If we all die ?

Asad : (wondering) If we die ..?

The Merchant : 'Umar, answer me ?

'Umar : We will become martyrs

The Merchant : Muslims ?

'Umar : Without doubt .. Muslims I  
Muslims martyrs

The merchant : Martyrs like the martyr of  
truth Hamza ?

The Young Man: (Shouting childishly, and grabbing  
his sword) Who is mentioning  
Hamza? Who dares to bring  
Alhashims name .. who ?

Hurr : What is that you spoiled child..

The Young Man: I am a leader just like you..

Hurr : (continuing) The memory of  
Hamza has a special place  
in every believer's heart !

'Umar : What you said is right my  
friend

The merchant : And If we die martyrs,

are we going to live in the  
sight of Allah just like the  
previous martyrs !!

Asad : Yes ... alive provided sustenance  
from Allah

The Merchant : And in the sight of Allah we  
might see Hamza ? What are  
we going to say ?  
And the Prophet of Allah, oh  
how dare I, what am I going  
to do if I see him ? How can I  
meet him and my hands is full  
with the blood of his family ?  
Is he not going to turn his face  
away ?  
(Hurrtums away from the merchant,  
about to explode. 'Umar and Asad  
are very angry )

Hurr : Oh my God .. Oh Allah .. your mercy ..!

'Umar : Take your Immoral face out of here..

The Merchant : Oh 'Umar, by Allah that is what the Prophet  
has said to Wahshey because the Prophet  
does not look in the face of those who  
killed his beloved ones. We are stabbing  
his heart!

Hurr : Go ask the prince Bin Zeyad about this  
matter, he is the one who is pushing us  
to do it

The Merchant : He is not going to have any say on the  
day of judgment  
(to 'Umar) You ask him and I am going  
to go to a place where Bin Zeyad and  
Yazid has no influence  
(shouting to the people) Who ever believes  
in Allah and the day of judgment, leave  
the oppressor and go in the way of Husayn  
He is the light of the Prophet. If one can not  
do that, one should escape with his faith  
far away from here just like the people  
of the cave, they left their home seeking  
God's mercy when corruption became  
wide spread.

- Merchant (2) : And I am also going to Husayn's army
- Shimr : (Standing in his way raising his sword)  
You will not pass..
- 'Umar : Shimr, let him go.. we will not miss him and Husayn's army will not get stronger with him because we are thousands and they are only a few hundred, and tomorrow we will get twenty thousand more.
- Asad : If we leave some one like him here, he will spoil the moral of the army. So Bin Goshen let him go because he will not help us here  
  
(Cries from the women's tent) Thirst ..thirst
- Shimr : (laughing) Yes cry and shout more .. I swear by Allah, you will not drink until the honors are violated or the son of Ali is killed
- Hurr : (shouting) You the lowest of the creatures, what honor you want to violate ??
- Asad : (sad) That is how Allah is making us fight each other
- Zaynab : (Runs from the tent)  
You treacherous and evil plotters  
What has the Prophet of Allah done to you, people of Kufa, so you come avenging his family ?  
For what reason you come walking to us to kill the daughters of the Prophet, to frighten his children and let them die from thirst..
- Cries : Thirst.. thirst.. We are about to die from thirst
- Zaynab : Allah's throne is about to shake from the cries of the children..  
The hard rocks are about to melt  
Allah has set a seal on hearing and on hearts  
(Husayn and his men come in,

the men spread over the hills)

- Husayn : Zaynab go back and ask Allah's  
mercy for our children
- Zaynab : Oh how we are lonely and estranged.  
And my brother is in their claws  
fighting for the sake of Allah
- Husayn : Oh sister, do not let the devil  
take your patience away  
go back to the tent and mourn  
us and wipe the tears of the  
women
- `Umar : Oh, Husayn son of Ali  
pledge to Yazid and you  
can all drink as much as you  
want then you can go back
- Husayn : Is that you `Umar Bin Sa'd  
(`Umar tries to hide)  
Bin Sa'd come out and face  
me .. Do not be afraid from  
me..
- `Umar : (From the lower level, embarrassed)  
I am not afraid of you so stop  
saying that
- Husayn : I do not mean fear but I mean  
some shame
- `Umar : Then pledge to Yazid, and I  
promise that I'll let you go safely  
back to Alhejaz
- Husayn : I do not give up like slaves  
I do not give up like a humiliated one  
By Allah I am not a coward to run  
away
- Shimr : Let us surround him.. do I go  
from the back?
- Husayn : (To his men) Dig a ditch around  
us and fill it with fire..  
(Blshr and Sa'id go to the right



side, Sukayna comes from the left)

- Sukayna : Oh father takes me to my grandfather's house in Alhejaz.
- Asad : Oh Husayn son of Ali why did you come here?
- Husayn : Ask the people who wrote to me to come and save them. And today, their swords are against me; woe to them. You have written to me (points to another) And you (points to the third) You always blamed me because I did not come to save you. And you (the men turning away) All of you have written to me
- First Man : By Allah I have not written to him. I only care about my own
- Second Man : No you did write to him and I did.
- Husayn : Then why have we changed from seeking justice. Is it greed? All the luxury that the oppressor has promised you? (points to another one on the lower level) You have written to me. Why have you gone back on your word? Is it fear? But think of the price.
- First Man : We are sick off poverty and fear
- Third Man : Pledge to Yazid and then say what ever you want
- Husayn : Then why didn't you say that before we came here ?

And the sword is not raised  
yet ?

Asad : Pledge now and go a way and  
do not embarrass the honorable  
men

Second Man : Do you want us to lose all the  
money and wealth we have..  
leave us alone..

Husayn : Oh you money slaves, woe to you,  
you seek this life like the moth  
seeks and falls in the fire light  
Do not be the group of wrongful  
doers where the devil spreads  
Do not be like the one who lights  
up a fire that burns him while the others  
are safe from it and enjoy its light  
Have mercy on your souls so Allah  
will have mercy on you  
(some men are turning getting  
embarrassed)

Third Man : We really have deceived him

Fourth Man : By Allah, we are excused  
because of Bin Zayad

Fifth Man : Are we men ? Or cowards ..

Husayn : You do not reach your goals  
until you indulge yourself in  
the wrongful ways and that is  
by fighting me..  
If there is one free man left from  
you, by Allah tell me are you pleased  
of what you doing ?  
You prohibit us from drinking  
water ?!  
You raise your sword against us ?  
You have cried and pledged allegiance to us  
to come to save you.  
Now that we came, you are embarrassed  
by your desires ? Look at your  
disgrace..!

Hurr : (To 'Umar) Why do not we let him  
go back to where he wants and may

Allah save us from fighting him  
(To himself) I wish he take his  
family and returns..

- Shimr : Oh Hurrare you hallucinating ?
- Hurr : (exploding) I am not hallucinating, you bastard..
- Shimr : Oh Hurrwhy are you quarrelling ?  
(`Umar, Hurr, and Asad are whispering)
- (Husayn and his supporters are on the  
hill discussing)
- Nafi' : Let us fight them now, because they  
are still easy to fight
- Zuheir : (continuing) There will be a lot of  
soldiers joining them soon
- Burayr : Let us fight before the long thirst  
exhausts our strength
- Bin `Awsaja : Let us fight them now because  
they are in disagreement
- Husayn : I will not start the fight
- `Umar : (in the lower level, talking and  
laughing, pointing to Shimr)
- Oh Shimr, in the past we  
were one of the worst  
highway robbers!
- Shimr : Then I repented.
- `Umar : (Continuing) Well go now and  
block the roads coming from  
Kufa so you can stop the  
poor people who want to join  
Husayn  
(Shimr leave in a hurry)
- Husayn : (Shouting from the hill)  
Let Bin Sa'd talk to me
- (a voice from Bin Sa'd's

barracks)  
He is afraid because he  
became a slave to Bin Henda

'Umar : (To Husayn) What do you  
want ?? It is war, so what do  
you want ??

Husayn : Remember the actions of  
Sa'd .. remember your father  
Remember his courage here in  
Qadesia  
He was the first to shout  
"Allah Akbar"  
Remember your father. remember  
his great actions in Uhud  
Remember your father and do  
not be a disgrace to his memory  
Remember your father and do not  
be dirt on his grave  
(Umar Bin Sa'd escapes these  
words and goes back to his tent)

'Umar : (shouting) silence him. I will  
never obey the son of Ali

Burayr : (To 'Umar) But he is the grandson  
of the Prophet.

Bin 'Awsaja : And your father was one of the first  
people to defend Islam ? Woe to you

Zuhair : (To 'Umar) It is enough honor to you  
that you obey the son of the bastard

Hurr : (To 'Umar) Do you fight this man  
in the name of Allah ?

(Umar shouts with pain trying to  
escape the answer)

'Umar : Yes by Allah, a fight that will not  
stop until, at least, his head will  
drop !

Husayn : (To 'Umar) Do you kill me for  
the sake of Allah ?  
Or for the defense of the nation ?

Or for relief ?  
 Or to defeat the oppression ?  
 Or to get the wealth that the  
 transgressor has promised  
 you ? !  
 What a humiliation.  
 What a humiliation.  
 So go ahead and do what ever  
 your greed pushes you to do,  
 oh you insane  
 You will never be pleased with  
 this life after me  
 I can see you now and your greed  
 leads to the decapitation of your head, and  
 for it to be hung on a stick.

'Umar : (Shouting) Silence... silence.  
 I will not listen to you !

Husayn : (Continuing) A head that will  
 be decapitated by a disappointed  
 king, stands on a stick on the roads  
 of Kufa, then gets thrown on the  
 sidewalk, so boys will kick it.  
 Then it will be thrown into the trash  
 to be eaten by insects.

'Umar : Why are you waiting ? All of you  
 surround him and kill him

Hurr : You have not given the order yet  
 (shouting to the people) Do not  
 throw a single spear !

'Umar : Oh Hurr, I give the order now..

Hurr : Do not judge and you are angry  
 Tomorrow we meet, and may Allah  
 save us from persecution. Let us go  
 now and discuss things  
 ('Umar, Hurr, and Asad go into  
 'Umar's tent. Husayn and  
 his followers remain on the hill.  
 The night is falling)

Husayn : Hurry up and work on the ditch

Zuhair : That is the best decision. We  
 defended Yathreb by the famous



- ditch.
- Bin 'Awsaja : All was the hero of the ditch in those days
- Burayr : And we defeated the Infidels
- Bin 'Awsaja : That is how we defeat the parties of wrong doings  
(they leave to the right side,  
Zuheir stops with others)
- Zuhayr : Son of the Prophet, tell us what will happen to us ?
- Husayn : I am.. ? (stops)
- Bin 'Awsaja : Tell us because Allah has endowed you his secrets
- Husayn : I do not know what you do not know. If you realize, you will know that I do not know better than you.
- Zuheir : You are only being modest
- Husayn : I do not have the knowledge  
In what you do not know
- Burayr : What we do not conceive,  
you do
- Bin 'Awsaja : You are the closest one of us to Allah and the heavens of Allah are open to you
- Habib : And Allah's care is surrounding you
- Zuhayr : You are sought by the pious people
- Habib : Tell us what are we going to do without you ?
- Bishr : You are the one who gives intercession
- Nafi' : Tell us some of what Allah has made

known to you but not to us

Bln 'Awsaja : You know more than what we know

Husayn : I know that the right will be crucified  
on the doors of the city and its disciples  
will not mourn it because they are afraid  
They are crying under the shade of  
thorns .. but they still rejecting it  
I know what the clouds will bring  
when it marches during the dark  
night..

I know that the sun is not lighting  
any more when hearts in  
chests become blind like eyes doll  
I know that the brave man will  
not surrender when facing a choice  
between living with humiliation  
or dying with honor.

I know that the wrong has become  
the lord of all..attacks everywhere  
and nothing stops in its way.. fear  
is its ground and temptation is its  
persuasion .. like a king becomes  
worshipped on earth. Its crown is  
deception and its prisoners are  
tears.

(All of them leave the hill. A  
man from 'Umar's army  
approaches and he is one of Kufa's  
distinguished men)

The distinguished man(Calling) Oh Sa'id Bln Sa'id  
My cousin Sa'id  
(Sa'id comes out and stands  
on the hill while the man is on  
the lower level)

Sa'id : Oh my cousin why are you  
shouting

The distinguished man I have missed you

Sa'id : I missed you too. How are you  
doing ? How is your family ?  
And my children, how are they  
doing ?  
How is the beautiful clear night  
at Kufa ?

And your beautiful slaves ? Do  
they sing all night ? And the  
trade ?!

The distinguished man Oh my cousin why do you  
side with Husayn ?

Sa'id : Oh my cousin shame on you,  
is that why you are here calling  
me. I am busy, leave me alone  
(Trying to leave)

The distinguished man What are you busy with ?

Sa'id : I have to dig the ditch (still  
tries to leave)

The distinguished man Oh my cousin, you did not  
answer me. Why did you  
side with Husayn  
(Sa'id stops for a moment  
to think)

Sa'id : If one has an eye and a heart,  
to whom should one side ?

The distinguished man I do not hate Husayn, and  
By Allah I will not raise a sword  
against him, but ..

Sa'id : (Interrupting) Would you get  
me some water ?

The distinguished man Death comes before that, the  
water is guarded by a thousand  
swords! I have not come for  
that but I came ..

Sa'id : (Interrupting) You have come for  
what ? Why ?  
You came to ask me why I am  
in Husayn's army ?

The distinguished man I wish for you to have power,  
wealth, and the luxury of  
living... If you join the prince's  
army.

Sa'id : (Shouting) You are crazy without

doubt.. Get out of here.. Go have  
a good time with your slave !

The distinguished man Do not scream because they will  
hear us  
Do not exaggerate.. the matter is  
easy.. All you need to do is just  
one step  
One step brings you all the luck  
and the luxury of living....  
You and your family will be rich  
and none of our families will be  
poor any more. Oh brother come  
down. By Allah, all it takes is  
one step

Sa'id : This one step is like crossing  
the entire earth. It is the difference  
between ever lasting heaven or hell.

The distinguished man Do not make it complicated. Life is full  
of chances, so grab your chance.

Sa'id : I am not cynical. you have hurt  
my brain with your blabber,  
leave and do not hallucinate.

The distinguished man Oh brother, do it for the sake of  
your children.

Sa'id : And that is why I choose the  
right side.

The distinguished man And if you get killed, what will  
happen to your children ?

Sa'id : They will inherit a good reputation  
and a good memory which will  
last them for ever.

The distinguished man (making fun of) It will not help them  
just a little.  
Will your reputation feed them ?  
What will they profit if you  
die and live in heaven in a big  
castle made out of gold ?  
All you will leave is a good  
reputation ?  
(making fun) Let them try to eat

from this good reputation  
 What will benefit your children is  
 for you to live even if you are living  
 in a tiny house.  
 I am calling you to gain a lot of  
 power, respect, and wealth.

Sa'id : (frightened) You devil, you  
 almost tempted me.  
 Get out of here and leave me!

The distinguished man (stops) Sa'id... come here.  
 By Allah come here. Follow  
 me.

Sa'id : Fate is written, do not  
 persecute me.

The distinguished man Death is not written yet, do  
 you think that you will fight  
 me tomorrow ? Do you kill me  
 or I kill you ? Will you be sane ?

Sa'id : Don't you think I am defending  
 the truth ?

The distinguished man I know that you are right

Sa'id : Don't you benefit from you  
 knowledge ?

The distinguished man And after me, who will make  
 that murderer Bin Zayed laugh  
 And who will take the gold  
 from Yazid. I do not give up  
 anything. I speak against Ali  
 and Husayn and by that I  
 may sin but I gain this life.

Sa'id : How about your faith ? your  
 faith my cousin ?

The distinguished man But life is more guaranteed  
 (mumbling) And By Allah I  
 like Husayn but .. I mean..  
 Even though I am committed  
 to my religion, I pray, pay  
 charity, pray night prayers,  
 and fast, and by that my sins



will wash a way because For every  
good deed, I get rewarded ten  
times, and for every bad deed,  
I get only one sin, so count.. count..

Sa'id : (laughing) Are you selling your  
good deeds ? Do you even bargain  
with your creator ?

The distinguished man You have to understand like me  
the equation  
Do not throw yourself into a losing  
battle. You know its consequences. You  
are seventy people, you came to take  
power from us to give it to the poor.  
Where as we are thousands. All of us  
merchants, distinguished, and lords,  
love of wealth and power made us rulers.  
Even some of the poor that you came  
to save have joined us. So go a head  
and join us.. join us ...

Sa'id : Sometimes poverty brings humiliation.

The distinguished man You join us and if things changed..

Sa'id : (Interrupting) I guard my self and  
my faith !!  
I know how you deceive people I

The distinguished man (Continuing) You gain This life  
and the Hereafter.. Who knows  
who is at wrong ?

Sa'id : But my cousin, you know who is  
at wrong.

The distinguished man If you realize, a living dog is better  
than a dead lion. Or are you going  
to die as you are living, absent minded  
Wake up you fool

Sa'id : No, you are the fool

The distinguished man (grabbing Sa'id) Follow me ..  
follow me.. Be sane

Sa'id : (lets him go and shouts) Get out  
of here.. leave me alone

The distinguished man I will leave but tomorrow I will  
get a lot of money, (as he is leaving)  
unlimited wealth

Sa'id : Do you know how long you are  
going to live to spend all that  
money ? (Sa'id leaves in a hurry)

(Umar, Hurr, and Asad come out  
from Umar's tent)

Umar : I can not stand to stay in the tent  
any more. Leave me outside here  
alone for a while.

Hurr : (To himself) Oh Allah may you  
avoid us fighting with the son of  
the Prophet

Asad : That is not what they want,  
do not ask the impossible. Yazid  
wants Ali's sons' head  
(Upset) Why did he not send  
soldiers from Aumia's army to  
fight Husayn Bin Ali

Hurr : Do you mean soldiers from  
Damascus ? We already have  
enough soldiers from Egypt.

Asad : That is not what I mean. I mean  
soldiers that do not carry swords  
or spears

Umar : (realizing) What soldiers do you  
mean?

Asad : Is not Bin Hind used to sending  
poison in a pan full of honey  
to whoever he wants to be killed ?  
Then he sings " Allah has soldiers  
made of honey "

Umar : (whispering) Shmr might be near..  
Do not add I

Hurr : The army has countless spying eyes

- Asad : Shmr ? Who is he ? I do not fear him ?  
Just an outcast professional killer
- `Umar : He used to be one of the most dangerous  
robbers
- Hurr : And now became one of the closest  
friend to prince Bln Zeyad and his  
best spying eye.
- Asad : I will take care of him with my sword.  
(Moves to the other side of the stage)  
I swear if I find him spying on us, I  
will kill him.  
(Leaves the stage, `Umar and Hurr  
stay)
- Hurr : (To `Umar) Oh brother would you  
talk my advice ?
- `Umar : Say it but make it short because  
Husayn's saying hurt me
- Hurr : You know that fear of Allah and  
righteousness is a garden of the  
scholar, and an exam for the  
rich.
- `Umar : (Impatient) and also the food  
for the poor, and what else ?  
say for God's sake
- Hurr : Is not enough for him(Husayn)  
to go back ?
- `Umar : Ask your prince !  
(silence) But Husayn Bln Ali  
might think that he will be a coward  
if he goes back
- Hurr : Let us make him go to whatever  
place you want and take a promise  
from him to be silent regarding  
Yazid's matter !
- `Umar : His silence..? It is just like his

saying. He is responsible for his  
 silence just like when he talks.  
 This silence might take the  
 heart of Bin Zeyad away or  
 break the thrown of Yazid.  
 Oh Hurr, this silence rumbles  
 like thunder.

Hurr : Then by Allah what are you going  
 to do ?

'Umar : Let him pledge (to Yazid)

Hurr : But this...

'Umar : (Interrupting) And by that he  
 will be humiliated  
 (with pain) He is now a hero  
 And I .. No .. What difference  
 between us ?!  
 If he pledged, he will be humiliated  
 like the rest of the people I  
 (making fun of) It is the newest  
 kind of justice !

Hurr : And If he did not give you the  
 pledge ?

'Umar : Then give me his head

Hurr : I was told that I am going to  
 heaven. But this is not going  
 to happen by me killing the  
 sons of prophets. This will  
 only bring a curse

'Umar : You did not think like that  
 before.. So what happen that  
 made you change ?

Hurr : From the light of the fire that  
 comes from my heart, I saw  
 the falsehood around me.  
 The whole earth became  
 straight to me, as I live in  
 the darkest night. so woe  
 to me .. Woe to me from  
 the punishment of Allah !!

'Umar : You're insane, you will be  
 slaughtered if you do not  
 give them his head.

Hurr : The morning is night to the  
 sight

'Umar : But we are destined to live  
 by night

Hurr : I will leave now and I will  
 take my family and friends

'Umar : Where are you going ?

Hurr : Away from the fire of  
 persecution and temptation  
 (wondering) I was told in my  
 dreams that I am going to  
 heaven.

'Umar : You will leave without any use.

Hurr : I will guide all my friends to the  
 right path and through the caravan  
 of falsehood

'Umar : Oh Hurr, are you thinking of  
 what will happen to you?

Hurr : You remember the justice of  
 Allah when you stand in front  
 of Him on the day of judgment

'Umar : (Shouting) I am pleased with what  
 I do I

Hurr : So leave me alone, you and your  
 foolish happiness of what you do

'Umar : Where do you go and you already  
 pledged to Yazid? You pledged  
 to Yazid when his father was  
 ruling by sword and money.

Hurr : (Angry) Stop saying that Bin Sa'd !

'Umar : (Continuing) The people will say that

he pledged because he was afraid and wanted to please Bln Hend. They will say Hurr failed to keep his promise, and they are right because you are breaking your promise after Bln Hend had died.. I

Hurr : I pledged for righteousness but the transgressor ruled us and oppressed us. By Allah, I did not pledge to kill an innocent or slay Husayn. I did not pledge to them to kill, deceive, and slay people..  
I pledged for truth and Yazid is a liar, kills people by just a doubt. He changed the Shura[ruling by discussion] to crown and throne. He is ruling us for two months like two centuries of oppression. He frightened the people by appointing the bastard Zeyad. I did not know all that when I pledged to him but after I....

'Umar : (Interrupting) Then stay in the army but do not fight and none of his spying eyes will notice. By doing that, you will not anger the prince nor fail your promise and become respected by all pious people and a friend to the leader. By that both lords will be pleased at you!

Hurr : (refusing) I am not like those who serve two lords. I either serve my conscious or my prince.

'Umar : Oh Hurr, I understand people like you, do not give in to your pains because you will regret it.

Hurr : My pains are great. they are the kind that bring respect and might!

'Umar : This is how your pride destroys you

Hurr : It is not pride that carries to sin. But it is the pride of hurting



truth and exhausted might

'Umar : By this, you kill yourself

(silence.. Hurr goes to face 'Umar  
and ask him)

Hurr : What do you think history will  
write about us ?

'Umar : (Frightened and shouting)  
Do not mention that to me !

Hurr : It is not going to mention us  
and even if it did, it will be in  
it's black pages cursing us.

'Umar : The rich person makes himself a good  
reputation, and if he dies, it  
will not matter because the  
rich can buy history..  
The rich own history.  
History is a slave for the rich.  
But either way, I do not mind  
because I can have all the luxury  
of life now, when I am alive.

Hurr : You may be able to buy thanks from  
the slaves of their instincts.  
You may be able to humiliate those  
strong greedy people.  
You may be able to strangle the words  
You may be able to imprison the wind in  
the air.  
You may be able to put down the light  
of the flame.  
But history is stronger than you all.  
History is free, cannot be sold.  
(moves a way) I will escape to  
history from you !

'Umar : You are going to your death..

Hurr : I have a question for you before  
I leave..  
Oh Bin Sa'd, who is your intercessor  
when the day comes and there  
will be no intercessor except one's  
intention..?

'Umar : (smiling) Oh Hurr, The Prophet AS will be my Intercessor.

Hurr : For what?

'Umar : (with confidence) Because I am his relative..

Hurr : And then what..?

'Umar : (proud) And my father was very close to him I

Hurr : (hurting) And that is why they chose you (to kill Husayn)

'Umar : (angry) Do not say that

Hurr : Do you remember prophet Noah's people

'Umar : I still believe in Prophet Mohammed's religion

Hurr : Do we seek his intercession and we come today to kill his sons..?  
 As if we are raising the sword against him !!  
 By Allah, he will not be your intercessor I  
 Go to hell, you and your army.  
 I am running to history from you. I am running to Allah from you all.. I am running to Allah with my faith.  
 (Hurr leaves in a hurry and one can hear his last sentence again and again)  
 I am repenting to God from what you are doing .. I am running to history from you all  
 ('Umar goes back and forth, the voice of Wahshy is sounding)

Wahshy : (from outside) I killed Hamza in Uhud I  
 (Wahshy comes in and he is shaking from being drunk and behind him are some of 'Umar's men)

And I gave his body to HEND. Then  
I saw her dancing among the women  
then I saw her, While she was very  
happy, take his liver and I stood  
there waiting for my prize.

`Umar : (shouting) You unhappy person,  
go away and take your evil face  
away from me

Wahshy : (continuing) She gave me my prize  
but I did not benefit from what I got  
and I became a free man but a slave for  
regret.

Wahshy : (Hurting, being sorry, and afraid) Oh  
how I regret that !!

`Umar : (continuing) Then when the day of  
the opening of Mecca came, you came  
to the Prophet..

Wahshy : And I stood crying in front of him, I  
did not say anything nor did he.  
And the Prophet cried and remembered  
the lord of martyrs Hamza, and I wished  
if I could give him my head to cut it, then  
I bowed but he did not turn his face toward  
me. I put my head in the soil but he  
did not turn his face toward me. Oh  
Prophet, avenge Hamza's death from  
me but he did not turn his face toward  
me. I crushed my chest with stones  
and iron but it did not benefit I  
I smashed my head into the walls of  
mosques. I was running everywhere  
but I could not run away. The voice  
of the Prophet still stays in my ears  
where ever I went, "I do not see  
the face of the one who killed my  
beloved ones."  
Oh how unhappy I am and how can  
I stand the punishment of the hereafter.  
I live today in the flood of alcohol and  
the fire inside me burns from regret.  
Oh God, why do You not crush  
the oppressor with the thunder of  
regret ? They left Husayn to

side with the son of the liver eater..  
I wish if I can join Husayn.  
I called him twice, but he turned  
away. Oh Husayn..!

- 'Umar : (shouting to some of his men)  
Take him away from here. Shut  
his unhappy voice. Hide him away  
In the depth of Euphrates so he can  
get relief from the pain of this life
- (Umar goes to his tent, the men  
go toward Wahshy but he runs away,  
they follow him)
- One man to another : How can we get relief from the pains  
of the hereafter !
- Wahshy : (as he leaves) Why do they leave the son  
of Fatima to side with the son of the  
liver eater ?
- (Voices from the tent of the women of  
Husayn)
- Voices : Thirst..thirst..  
(Zaynab and Sukayna come out of the  
tent)
- Sukayna : My mouth is dry. Isn't there any  
water here ?  
(digging in the stones) I dig in the stones  
but there is no use
- Zaynab : Oh how that is painful for me to  
hear when I cannot do anything,  
so lick on the stones my niece.
- Sukayna : Oh.. Who can take me back to my  
grandfather house !
- Zaynab : Oh Sukayna, our cries now will not  
benefit.
- Sukayna : We are here in the desert, and the  
daughters of Bin Zeyad in the safe  
castles.

(Husayn comes from the front  
and goes toward 'Umar's barracks.  
Zaynab is on the hill watching him)

Zaynab : (shouting) Oh my God .. You are  
walking to death despite your will  
woe to me

Husayn : (shouting as he turns around)  
Oh sister, woe to someone else  
not you

Sukayna : Oh father, how will life be  
without you ?

Husayn : Oh daughter, do not let our  
envious be pleased

Sukayna : (quieting her cries) woe from  
the calamity of destiny

Husayn : When oppression rules, the  
sane hallucinate and if Allah  
did not guard thee, bigotry would  
humiliate us. Therefore be quiet  
so you do not say something  
that might hurt us.  
(keeps going to 'Umar's tent)

Zaynab : (praying to Allah as she watching  
him go)  
Oh Allah, save him from those  
whose mouth is full of deceit  
and schemes. Oh God save him  
from those whose promises are  
lies, and falsehood.

Sukayna : (praying) Oh God, save us from  
those whose hearts are more  
mean than stones.

Zaynab : (continuing) Oh Allah, save him  
from those whose bodies became  
graves.  
Save him from those whose hearts  
have melted in their chests. Oh Allah  
If you did not guard life with  
your justice, no one can do it after  
you.

(Both go into the tent)

- Husayn : (on the door of `Umar's barracks)  
Oh Bin Sa'd.. Would you come out  
to hear me ?  
(calling) Oh `Umar..
- `Umar : (coming out) You have just  
ambushed me a while ago, why  
did you come again ..?
- Husayn : Moses used to knock on Pharaoh's door  
every day for several times for maybe  
Pharaoh could be guided I
- `Umar : (angry) Do you think I am like Pharaoh?
- Husayn : And I am not like Musa.  
He is better than me and he is one  
of the pious messengers!
- `Umar : And I am less powerful and less  
influential than Pharaoh!
- Husayn : (kindly) Oh Bin Sa'd I feel  
sorry for you, for your oppression
- `Umar : So am I an oppressor!  
Do you think I am an Oppressor I  
(kindly) Oh Husayn I
- Husayn : Oh Bin Sa'd, we fought together  
We defeated oppression  
everywhere.  
We raised the flag of humanity  
in the face of destiny  
We walked together  
Lifting the pains from the spirit  
of human beings  
We fought together, and got  
hurt together  
How many times we dreamed  
when we were young  
And we learned together  
We worked together for justice  
to spread among all people
- `Umar : (In chaos) This was when we

were like what we like to be  
and when religion was religion.

Husayn : Oh `Umar, what makes this religion  
different from what it was ?

`Umar : Oh Husayn, the needs of  
governing and the responsibilities  
became more.

Husayn : All that is not mighty, and it is  
an excuse if the right is denied.

`Umar : Oh Husayn Bin Ali,  
might is only to Allah !

Husayn : You still remember the saying  
of Allah.. good for you..But did  
you forget the Prophet ?

`Umar : You are judging me as an infidel  
By God I am not like Pharaoh

Husayn : I am not your judge, but you  
might oppress yourself and I  
think it is my duty to guide  
you.

`Umar : You only do what you are  
doing to satisfy your pride !

Husayn : I seek Allah's refuge from being a  
self-conceited boaster. (silence)  
The deceiver is the one who deceives  
you

`Umar : You are flaming deception so  
you please your conscious

Husayn : Do you know that the eye of God  
is called conscious

`Umar : So remember the duty of Allah on  
you

Husayn : Do you think when I do my duties  
to God, I am setting the fire of  
deception ?



- Umar : Leave my duties and your duties alone
- Husayn : Allah had ordered us to save the oppressed.  
The believer should not be silent in front of an unjust ruler.  
We learned that together
- Umar : All the scholars are pleased.  
So tell me, who are you standing for and for what?
- Husayn : (with confidence) To close the doors of falsehood  
To answer the cries of justice  
To save the truth from dark corners  
For the honor of human beings and the honor of religion  
To bring the poor to victory
- Umar : (making fun of) Are you the guardian of truth in the nation ?  
Are you the one to guide the people ?
- Husayn : (seriously) This is the duty of every human being in this life, whatever one's cast.
- Umar : Every human being is responsible for one's self.
- Husayn : Let there be some men among you to guard from committing evil
- Umar : There are no men in this life seeking you. You are from an old century that has passed away..
- Husayn : (sad) And the century of changing religion has come !
- Umar : (continuing) You have come from outside history to hurt us. You have come to take our wealth from us.  
There, the people are slaves of greed and fear. The swords of the greedy

are against you.

- Husayn : How about the swords of the afraid ?
- `Umar : They are shaking from fear
- Husayn : And if they raised their swords  
from the fear of the oppressors,  
on whom shall the burden fall, on you  
or on them?
- `Umar : (exploding) You were in Hejaz safe  
in the shadow of your grandfather,  
and you were feared like a king.
- Husayn : (interrupting) I am not seeking to  
be a king or to govern.  
I only seek correction and guidance.
- `Umar : (continuing) Everything is in your hands  
People's respect and appreciation  
God's giving and love  
People's hearts and dreams are around you  
Then the inheritance of prophethood..  
What other gains do you want ?  
Why did you come here where swords  
are raised against you ?
- Husayn : (suddenly) You.... Is my place in your heart  
like what the other people bear for me ?
- `Umar : (worried) I ? No... No. I do not hate you  
but I.... Some one like me cannot love  
you. You have embarrassed me. You  
made me a sinner.  
If I listen to myself, I lose my faith,  
and if I care for my faith, I lose myself  
and I might lose my head.  
I will lose Arey and Gergan[two territories]  
I will lose the ease and luxury of  
living if I be kind to you.  
I will lose all what had been promised  
to me if I side with you..  
Then I.... Can you not understand me ?  
It is the chance of life time.... Have mercy  
on me ?
- Husayn : You are between Hell and Heaven, so  
make your choice

- 'Umar : Oh, grandson of the Prophet, There is no choice to make. There is no choice between the edge of a sword or the throne?! This is the real disaster.  
(Umar does not face Husayn. He always turns away from him)
- Husayn : (Husayn tries to look into 'Umar's face but 'Umar always turns away)  
If you chose the way of Allah, God is merciful to his servants
- 'Umar : (escaping) Oh, Bin Ali, and I wish for his mercy. I will pray after I get Alrey and Gergan, and I will cry and pray so God will forgive me
- Husayn : Like this .. ? Are you selling to Allah ? Are you playing dumb ?
- 'Umar : (making fun of) Moses was not angry when he went to Faro, he was patient. (suddenly laughing) Do you know why they called him the speaker(spoken to Allah)?
- Husayn : By Allah, you are just like Faro and you might get a fate just like Faro's fate.
- 'Umar : (exploding) Till today, you never gain any power by a prayer or fast, and worship
- Husayn : Why do you not face me? Let me look at your eyes because there is a pain deep in your eyes.
- 'Umar : (turning by arrogance) Since today, nations are governed by the sword.  
By twisting necks.  
Money is spent for those who seek this life.  
And after all that, prayer comes !  
It is only a decoration in the king's castle.  
And It is not even in the king's castle, you find it only in the mosques.

Prayer is not for a powerful leader  
but for a weakling who does not have  
desires.  
The equality that you are calling for is  
only in the dreams of a worshiper..!

Husayn : This talk has never been spoken, even  
from the most oppressive from Aumelas  
You became like that?!  
How shameful!! You have lost your  
father!!

`Umar : Leave me alone. I have no way of  
convincing you. From now, the only  
thing between us is the field of battle.  
So fight. By Allah, I will not meet  
you only in the battle. And By Allah,  
there will be a lot of dead people in  
this fight, and the sword will take  
a lot of heads. I will not leave any  
of you alone, even the young. The  
women will become widowers and  
mourners.

Husayn : (feeling sorry) Think where this will  
take you ..?

`Umar : We have planned for everything

Husayn : How much water do you need to  
wash the blood out of your hands ?

`Umar : (quietly and challenging) Only drops  
from the prince's giving I

Husayn : And which castle will protect your  
ears from hearing the cries of the  
widowers ?

`Umar : A castle in Alrey or in Gergan.. or  
in any other place in our country

Husayn : And how can you take the echo of  
the mourning from your ears ?  
And how can you hide the scene  
of sorrow if it passed through your  
eyes ?

- 'Umar : (making fun of and challenging) By the music and dancing of the slaves, and by the cheers and laughing of friends.
- Husayn : And how will you face the eyes of the innocent and the sorrow of the orphan ?
- 'Umar : (making fun of) Why would I face that? I will not face it !
- Husayn : To where would you run from a look that if it is seen by the stars, the light of the stars will freeze
- 'Umar : I will bury those who I kill under dirt so I will be safe from their looks  
The best thing to put down the fire is dirt.
- Husayn : Do you not end up in this dirt ?  
Even if you reach above the sky,  
think, in what humiliation will you end up?
- 'Umar : Why would I think of my fate now..?
- Husayn : (exploding with pain) I did not know that one's conscious could die while one is still alive.  
You know you are going in the way of falsehood  
Save yourself  
Break your prison  
Say for once one truthful word  
Do not make your chest a grave for the words  
The words die here in your chest  
woe to you ..  
You've become a walking grave  
The worms start living in your body eating the best of what you have  
And you think you are still alive?  
You are not alive  
Glory to the Alive(Allah)... the Alive ... the Alive.  
(Husayn goes back to the hill and 'Umar goes back to his tent

while Zaynab and Sukayna come out  
on the hill)

Zaynab : (praying to God and looking toward  
Husayn)  
Oh, grandfather ask the most merciful  
Allah to guard (Husayn) with his  
protection

Sukayna : And I ask Allah some of his kindness  
in this desert because even my blood  
had dried from my thirst.  
Oh, Zemzem water I am so thirsty..  
I wish for a drop of Zemzem I

(Husayn reaches the hill.. his  
friends Bishr, Sa'id, Burayr, Habib  
Bin 'Awsaja, Nafi', Zuhayr, And  
other men followed him. Zaynab  
and Sukayna are sitting down far away  
in front of the tent)

Sa'id : We finished digging our ditch

Husayn : light the fire in it so it will be  
difficult for them to go through

Burayr : (shouting behind the stage) Light  
up the fire..

Bin 'Awsaja : (shouting) Light up in the ditch..

Zaynab : (praying) Oh Allah, make this fire  
safe on us as you made it safe on  
Abraham (AS)  
(Smoke and flame rise.. Some of  
'Umar's men like Shmr and Hurr  
come out)

Shmr : Oh Husayn ... Do you light up  
the fire..? Do not rush for the fire  
before the day of judgment

Husayn : Who is that hooting in the middle of  
no where?  
Who is that hooting in the night ?

Shmr : I am Shmr who ,by the will of  
Allah, will kill you so you can

go to the hell fire

- Husayn : The unhappy ones will enter it
- Shimr : Then you will enter it, you the one who disobeyed leadership
- Husayn : You are the one who deserve it  
You are the one..
- 'Umar : No, I am the one who will send you to it by the will of Allah
- Sa'id : (to Shimr) By the will of Allah?  
you the son of the mourner
- Zuhayr : Allah does not permit people like you to go anywhere except to hell
- Bishr : Expect shame and hell
- Sa'id : Do you kill him, you the son of the leprous?
- Husayn : Sa'id .. hold your patience
- Sa'id : (to Shimr, still excited) Were you born to a monkey or a pig..?
- Husayn : Wait, wait Sa'id  
We came to guide, not to call each other names
- Bin 'Awsaja : The leper....In my target, would you permit you to shoot him by a spear ?
- Husayn : I hate to start the fight
- Zuhayr : The leprous is a tyrant transgressor
- Nafi' : He is the worst of the enemies
- Bin 'Awsaja : If he dies, the whole army gets defeated
- Husayn : I would not start to fight and I have not advised them well enough
- (Hurr moves toward Husayn)



Shimr : (joking with Hurr) Are you going to fight him first

Hurr : (shaking) Leave me .. leave me  
Get out of my face

`Umar : (to himself) Hurrllooks sick  
He did not seem well since yesterday  
Are you going to give water to your horse ?  
If you are sick, lay down  
(Hurris silent .. does not move.. Shimr comes out)  
(Hurrlstarts climbing the hill)

Bin `Awsaja : (shouting) Do not come closer because you are an infidel

Husayn : Only Allah knows the intentions

Hurr : (stops alone) Oh Allah, I repent to you  
Allah I seek your forgiveness

Voices of women : Thirst .. thirst

Hurr : (to himself, shaking) Oh Allah  
I frightened the daughters of your Prophet, forgive me.. listen to my cries.. And protect me with your care. I scared the children just like the monsters

Zaynab : (shouting from the tent) You tyrant, go back where you came from. Stay away from us

Hurr : (continuing and still shaking)  
I pushed the Prophet's beloved one between teeth and claws.  
Oh God forgive my sin  
And join me with the son of Alzehra  
In your heaven surrounded by your rewards  
(approaching Husayn)

- Bin `Awsaja : You the bravest of the people of Kufa, why are you shaking ?
- Sa'id : (raising his sword) Stay away, you wolf, stay away
- Husayn : Leave him alone
- Hurr : (to Husayn with humbliness)
- I am Hurrwho disturbed you  
I am who put you into this  
place as a prisoner  
I did not think that they want your death  
So I repent to Allah between  
your hands  
Do you think Allah will forgive  
me if I fight with you in the  
way of Allah ?
- Husayn : Allah's mercy on every one who repents and stay on the right path
- Bin `Awsaja : (come down to Hurr) Welcome Hurr.. welcome as a leader in all wars against infidels
- Hurr : Oh Bin `Awsaja, I come to fight behind you
- Hurr : (hugging Sa'id, while Sa'id puts down his sword)
- Sa'id : (Hugging him too) Welcome, welcome. Today I feel real happiness
- Hurr : Oh grandson of the Prophet, pray for me to Allah (bow in front of Husayn)
- Husayn : You pray to Allah because Allah will not turn down the prayer of one who is repenting and seeking forgiveness,  
And you are just like that in front of Allah since you came back to defend in his way
- Hurr : Allah will have mercy on one who disobeyed him? I wish his mercy reaches me  
(a quiet shouting from the women's

tent)  
Thirst ... thirst.

Husayn : Allah will have mercy on all of us if  
we spent our effort in his obedience

Bin Burayr : (kindly to Hurr) And this is how the  
joining of friends completes on the way

Husayn: By Allah, our man Hurrhad come back  
free

Hurr : Would you permit me to say a few words to my  
people maybe they will get guided

Husayn : Say whatever you want, may Allah  
guide by your words people like you  
who have gone astray  
(Husayn goes into the women's  
tent)

Hurr : (as he goes to a hill to call on)  
Oh people... Come to me so you  
can hear me  
Oh my people... Come on ...  
I am Hurr and I say  
(mumbling behind the curtain  
and a quiet move between the  
followers of Husayn. Sa'id  
goes to Bishr who sits silently  
and seem sad.. the voice of  
women quiet down)

Shouting : Thirst .. thirst

Sa'id : (teasing) What makes you wonder ?  
Who is taking your mind ?

Bishr : We became only seventy people !  
After we were thousands, Sa'id

Sa'id : (still teasing) Are you dreaming  
that you are at your home with  
your wife ? Maybe she reduces  
the pain of thirst !  
(with pain) Oh, for this thirst..

Bishr : Oh Sa'id, this is not the time to  
be kidding, this is the time of  
sadness and hope..

- Sa'id : You think I am a kidding man ?
- Hurr : (calls on his people from another side):  
Oh people, I am Hurr..  
And you have promised me  
(noone comes out)  
Will someone come out..
- Sa'id : (to Bishr) Do you know what  
will bring happiness to me more  
than what we are now?
- Bishr : There is nothing around us that  
bring happiness..  
It is perish by thirst.. and death !
- Bin `Awsaja : If we did die in this war, death  
will face us anywhere even in  
our beds
- Nafi' : Do you think we can avoid it ?
- Sa'id : (continuing to Bishr while Husayn  
comes out from the tent)  
But I have prepared my self to hug  
the pure ones in heaven, so envy me  
there is nothing between me and the  
pure ones except for them to start the  
war and we fight  
I will fight by my sword continuously  
until they kill me..  
Yes Bishr, by Allah, like that..  
And then I will be between the pure  
ones and the palms, and the river  
(laughing) Then I satisfy my thirst  
with the drinks of heaven and the drinks  
that are served by the pure young ones  
(all start laughing, Husayn stands  
far by himself)
- Hurr : Oh people... my people... listen to me  
(they come out, Shlmr and `Umar with  
them)
- Husayn : (praying to Allah) You are my hope  
in every difficulty.  
you are my help in every matter

(Zaynab and Sukayna come out from the tent and stands by the door)

- Zaynab : (to Husayn)  
You are the best of what the past had left for us.  
You are the most noble of what the present has given to us.  
You are the fragrance of our house and the hope.  
You are the sunrise of mercy and justice on the river banks of our future.  
You are the gust of the grace of Allah blown around us.
- Sukayna : I wish...but when the wishes had come true?
- Hurr : (from the other side)  
Oh people listen to me... May your immoral mothers mourn you ...
- Husayn : (shouting to Hurr) No.. I refuse cursing and calling names.. not for this we came here
- Hurr : Oh son of the Prophet, they do not abstain from any sin  
(to the people) You have sent for a man where there is no one on this earth better than him  
He came to lift the oppression and darkness from upon you.  
You have cried to him to come to you  
Now that he has come to save you, you gave up on him !?  
You made him leave a safe place where he was between his people claiming you have pledged to him  
and you claim that you will not rest until he comes so you give up your souls before him  
And today, you came to kill him..
- Shimr : Oh Hurr, you have giving us a headache so be silent

- Habib : Why do you take advantage of his patience with you ?
- Zuhayr : And why did you surround his children and his women ?
- Burayr : And he became like a prisoner of war ?
- Hurr : Let him go into this world
- Bin `Awsaja : Oh Husayn, my heart
- Burayr : My Allah curse you, you the slave to your desires
- Hurr : There is the water of Euphrates easy to swallow for those who drink and where the wales, pigs and even dogs drinks from it
- Burayr : (about to cry) And the sons of the daughter of the Prophet are dying from thirst
- Hurr : (continuing) So why do you forbid the water from them ? May Allah curse you
- Shimr : By Allah, if the whole earth became water and I owned it, they would not get a single drop of it
- Hurr : May Allah forbid you from water on the day of the biggest thirst [the day of judgment] except for a drink of boiling water
- `Umar : Let him pledge to Yazid then he can have water
- Voices of women : Thirst...thirst
- Shimr : Let him go to Bin Zeyad, for my lord to deal with him
- Hurr : (to his people) May your immoral mothers mourn you. If you follow

him you will enter hell

Shimr : He will not taste water until he chokes  
and chokes again

Husayn : What do you want from me ?

Shimr : We do not want anything except for  
your head

`Umar : Or follow us to go to prince Bin Zeyad

Husayn : If I surrender to death, will you leave  
my children, my women, and the  
rest of my men alone?

`Umar : Surrender first

Husayn : I am here in front of you, take me if  
you are able  
Kill me if you can  
Then give water to the thirsty women  
and take away the thirst of the innocent  
children

Zaynab : (objecting) No, every thing in this  
world may go for your sake  
From women to children  
We have bore more than what mountains  
can bear to protect you  
No, but everybody die before you  
You die ?  
No, every thing that the sun shines on  
may go for your sake, you the man of  
truth.

Then who will walk with the light of  
the truth in the dark nights ?  
Who will rise if an overwhelming  
calamity comes?  
In evil, the weak, poor people  
bun and cry. Who will protect  
them ?  
I wish for the world and for time  
to not to be, if you perish.  
By Allah, how will people enjoy  
living anymore if they kill you ?  
No, but you will live  
And you will stay in front of us, the one

that we seek  
 (almost crying) Who will be left  
 for the house of the Prophet ?  
 Who will be feeding the poor your  
 bread ?  
 I wish for life and for time  
 and for existence to not be,  
 if you perish !  
 (crying) No my brother, but we all  
 die thirsty and patiently and you  
 live !

- Husayn : Why do you cry my sister ?  
 Be silent because my heart is  
 bleeding from what you said..  
 (silence) I will not surrender
- Zaynab : Oh my brother, these tears have  
 turned off for me the heat of hell.
- Sukayna : Oh my father, my tears are dry  
 because of my thirst. I wish for you  
 to take me back to my grandfather's  
 house
- 'Umar : Then surrender
- Sukayna : Oh my father, my veins are dry  
 as I dream of water. I am about  
 to go insane.
- Zaynab : Lick on this (giving her a stone)
- Sukayna : Oh aunt, we licked all the stones  
 from the ground, but it's no use..
- 'Umar : Husayn, if you surrender yourself,  
 you will be safe
- Voices of women : Thirst...thirst.  
 We are thirsty... we are thirsty.  
 Mouths are dry and there is no more  
 water  
 Inside us are flames... Is there any  
 water ?  
 Thirst...thirst!!
- 'Umar : (to Husayn) Surrender !
- Voice of a child : I am thirsty



I am thirsty

Women : Thirst... thirst

Sukayna : I will give half of my life for one sip of water

Umar : Surrender, and let the children and women drink

Husayn : Oh God of the throne  
(shouting and going nowhere)  
Thirst... thirst

Umar : We are the ones who are responsible for the children if they die from thirst

Sukayna : We'll dig in the rocks  
And some of the rocks get soft  
and a stream will burst forth

Zaynab : The heart of an oppressor will not get soft  
It is worse in hardness than all things

Sukayna : Is there not a Muslim man among them ?

Zaynab : (shouting) Oh my grandfather !!... my grandfather !!

Husayn : Oh sister, wait because crying will be for long

Women : Thirst... thirst

Umar : Surrender, and we will give your children and women a drink  
They will die here thirsty because you are stubborn  
You are the one responsible in front of Allah if they perish

Sukayna : Oh father, my heart became like a candle melting down from the flame of thirst  
Take me back now to my grandfather's

- Husayn : Do not talk anymore so you do not stoop low (to Zaynab) Make her quiet, my sister
- Zaynab : We will be just as we like
- Sukayna : My tongue is fixed to my mouth...  
Oh Aunt, my veins are dry
- Husayn : (praying) Oh Allah take this calamity away from my family  
Oh Allah, Take me to relaxing water  
And make me lie on a green prairie  
Oh God have mercy on me.
- Umar : (Shouting) Surrender
- Husayn : Now, I have advised enough
- Umar : Son of Ali, we have not heard anything
- Husayn : You have covered you ears by your greed  
And the Haram[unlawful] filled inside of you
- Umar : Pledge to Yazid, then say what ever you want  
We all pledged to Yazid, except you did not pledge to him, why ?  
So you will be different from us ?  
You are not richer than us or better than us  
You are only a poor man and that is why you have risen up so you can take the wealth from us  
You are stepping away from Allah's doctrine  
You are calling to abandon God's rules
- Husayn : Am I the one who is disobeying the Lord of the thrown ? I am the one who is calling for the righteous way for justice, for equality....

- 'Umar : Allah had made us different, why  
are you calling for equality then ?  
So we all become poor....  
And all will be in distress equally...
- A man : How then did he become a leader and  
Imam if he is calling for that ?
- Husayn : Oh you party of sins, how you  
twist things ?  
Oh you the ones who refuse the  
words, you fall for your benefit  
as flies fall  
Why is it that after Islam had freed you  
so you can walk by its guidance,  
your hearts became a slave for  
your desires and you have gone  
astray ?  
May you get crushed, you liars,  
treacherous, deceptive people who  
have gone astray  
I did not come here except to  
save you. Why are you betraying  
me ?  
And I came to lift the chains of  
oppressors off your necks  
I have not come except to fill every  
house with love, and to calm  
frightened hearts and fill them with  
love.  
I have not come to you except to lift  
off of you the injustice of the leaders.  
I came to wake your conscious up and to  
uncover the darkness of your sight  
I came to lift up the fear from the  
doors of the city  
I came to save the smiles that were  
strangled upon the faces of children  
So look at me, and see how I am and  
how your oppressor is?  
You are betraying me and killing me  
to strengthen your killers  
Have you called me to come here to  
strengthen your oppressors ?  
Did you call me here so I could sin and  
sell your rights away?  
Did you call for me to come here so  
I could pledge to the tyrant ?

Allah forbids me from doing that  
 And He calls for truth  
 And the martyrs from you fathers  
 And the people before you who did  
 not go astray  
 A promise that I gave to my father and  
 to the Prophet and I will not break it  
 That I stand for the right and defeat  
 the injustice  
 That I do not allow oppression  
 That I stand with the fugitive justice  
 That I protect the weak from the  
 oppression of tyrants  
 That I expose falsehood even if it is  
 protected by crowns or disguised  
 That I crush the lousy lies  
 So if you refused to die with respect  
 and accept to live in humility, I leave  
 you to Allah.  
 Oh my God, do not bring rain to them

- 'Umar : Oh Husayn, here we are drinking  
 and your are thirsty
- Husayn : Tear them into pieces as you did for  
 'Ad and Thamud
- Shimr : But we are the ones who will tear you  
 into pieces
- Husayn : Oh my God, let them get divided, and  
 do not let them get together except  
 on the righteous way
- 'Umar : No but your father's supporters were  
 divided and the people who pledged  
 allegiance to you now are giving you up
- Voices of women : Thirst...thirst.
- 'Umar : Surrender
- Husayn : I am here in front of you, what do  
 you want other than me, throw  
 your spears at me.  
 And give water to the thirsty women  
 and to the innocent children
- 'Umar : By your grandfather, if you do not

surrender, all of them will die from  
thirst.  
So surrender

Husayn : I surrender ? What a word!!  
I surrender!!

Zaynab : (shouting with fear) No. Never...never.  
Do not surrender.

Husayn : These people do not want anything  
except my head.  
I am the dead one. Here I am the  
dead one. So all of you leave, I will  
fight them by myself  
Save yourselves

Zaynab : Do not surrender

Sukayna : By my grandfather, do not surrender

Zaynab : By the wound of your father in Kufa, do  
not surrender  
By the honor of the word, do not surrender  
By your uncle Hameza, do not surrender  
By the might of your religion, do not surrender  
By the memory of your grandfather, do not  
surrender

`Umar : Surrender  
Your children will die, surrender

Shimr : Your women will die from thirst..  
Surrender

Sukayna : (frightened) Father, no do not surrender  
(Zayn Alabedeen comes raising his sword)

Zayn al-'Abidin: Aren't we on the right path?..  
We'll all die before you, father

Husayn : You are sick. Son, go back to  
your bed

`Umar : All your young ones will die.  
Give yourself up

Shimr : And we will let the women and  
children drink

'Umar : And you can go back to where  
you want

Zaynab : (to Husayn) For our safety,  
you surrender ?!  
If you surrender, then who will  
be safe !?

Husayn : (alone and away) I seek refuge in  
Allah from going astray while I remain  
on his guidance  
Or from needing anything in this life  
while I am living in his richness  
Or from committing injustice while  
everything in this universe belong to him  
(takes the hand of his son Zayn  
Alabedeen and goes to the tent)  
(hurrying) My son Zayn Alabedeen,  
get in and sleep..., and Allah  
protect us with his kindness

Zayn Alabedeen : Oh father, your grandfather used  
to protect his message by his sword  
(they get into the women's tent)

'Umar : Surrender...surrender

Voices of women : Do not surrender

Zaynab : By the honor of Allah by which you  
brought us here, do not surrender

Voices of women : Do not surrender

Husayn : (comes back exploding and raising his  
sword)  
This is the sword of the messenger  
of Allah that I carry  
A sword that has shaken the corner  
of falsehood  
A sword that brought a time of  
justice  
(an arrow falls on the hill)

'Umar : I am the first one who threw a spear  
witness that so you can tell the prince  
(to Shmr)  
Tell him that I am fighting the son of Ali

- Burayr : And your father was the first one who fought for the sake of Islam. Oh how unhappy you are
- Zuhayr : The matter is set, oh son of the Prophet would you give me permission to fight
- Husayn : We will not start fighting until they do  
(arrows start falling on the hill)
- Bin 'Awsaja : The messengers of the people keep coming would we answer their salute by the same thing I
- Burayr : Bin S'ad, why did you send spears ?
- Nafi' : By this we are rushing for the fight
- Husayn : Bin S'ad, stop these spears so we can pray, or would you forbid us from prayer ?
- Shimr : Pray as you want since Allah will not accept it
- Sa'id : And your prayer gets accepted, you drunk  
The prayer of the righteous Imam does not get accepted, you the son of the mourner ?
- Zuhayr : Son of the Prophet, will you give me permission to fight him ?
- Husayn : (sad) May Allah protect you and go  
(suddenly shouting)  
No, my friend, wait for me.. no wait
- Burayr : May my father and mother go for your sake, why are you broken down ?  
Why all that sadness on your noble face ?
- Husayn : I am afraid that if we are gone, you are the few righteous people left  
I am afraid for the light to be put out  
For the truth to be stepped on

- Bin 'Awsaja : Oh son of the Prophet, aren't we on the right path ?
- Husayn : Yes we are, by the creator of all creatures where there is no escape except for His mercy
- Burayr : Then we do not care what will happen to us if we end up in His heaven
- Husayn : No, but leave me alone here and go back safely to your family  
So the carriers of the truth will not be eradicated  
So the one who seeks the right way will not go astray  
So the road of guidance will not be empty  
So the soldiers of justice will not finish  
Leave me alone face my destiny  
And meet my fate with a clear conscious  
Because my first good days have been written on me just like my last days
- Burayr : And how will we face our children, how about the thoughts of our minds, and flashes of memory in front of our eyes
- Sa'id : The head of our righteous Imam gets beheaded and we go to our children and women ?
- Bishr : No by your father, we will face the aggressors
- Zuhayr : No, by the honor of the pure souls
- Nafi' : No, by the self respect of the courageous
- Sa'id : If we did not protect you by our swords, and we did not defend you by our bodies, we will stop you from them by our flesh



Bin 'Awsaja : Allah will give us the reward of  
Jihad when we fight them

Husayn : Then go to fight them. Go....  
Call for the men and fight.  
(they leave and he remains by  
himself)

Husayn : (continuing) I am the martyr  
here along all time  
I am the martyr  
So put the body of the martyr  
in the middle of the desert to  
be a bloody sign  
For death for the sake of truth, justice  
and honor  
Its red drops move along the  
clouds to paint the horizon that  
is filled with hatred  
with some colors of brotherhood  
From my bloody heart, the new  
dawn will rise.  
From the heat of the livers of the thirsty,  
the happy time will come out.  
Praise to the one who gives up life for  
something that has more value than  
life.  
Praise to the bearers of truth who  
realized that self respect is the road to  
safety  
And remember me always  
Remember me when the darkness  
of tyrants spread  
And when vultures attack the  
crowds of doves  
And when the calamity of wars  
rises above the calls for peace  
And when the monster takes over  
the field to eat the insides of children  
And when the dark clouds cover  
the light of day  
And when the shine of the stars  
shakes from storms  
And when fear cuts safety into pieces  
And when the scholar walks defeated  
seeking the pity of rulers  
And when the people of knowledge hide  
fearing the shouts of the ignorant  
And when the weak seek refuge in

their dreams and sad hopes  
And when the night of sins arrives  
And when Immorality rises  
And when good behaviors can  
not speak and become handicapped  
and the voice of evil becomes loud  
(Comes out with his sword)

### Third Scene

(The same previous view. A new day in Karbala; the sun is rising on the desert, the hills and the sand, and heat waves are noticeable in the atmosphere)

- Shimr : (Going toward `Umar's tent) By God,  
where is `Umar ?  
O, leader of the army, think and  
plan, what are we going to do with  
Husayn's army?  
They are like the Jinn; anyone that comes  
to fight kills twenty of us.
- Asad : (Comes from behind, frightened) They are  
like hungry lions that destroy our  
soldiers on the right and left,  
because they want no money,  
there is no safety except for death.
- Shimr : We have not seen the likes of this in any war.  
  
(`Umar comes out from his tent and  
stands under the hills)
- `Umar : They are just seventy people, no more.  
Woe to you!
- Shimr : Nevertheless, they killed hundreds of  
us, bravely.
- `Umar : There is not one of them who is not  
feeling the heat of thirst inside him  
like burning flame.
- Asad : They have frightened us, so think, `Umar!
- Shimr : If they keep on fighting us one on one,  
they will eradicate the whole army!
- Asad : They shook the morale of the army.  
Many have escaped who are not used  
to raising their swords against their  
tyrants! They are used to dropping their  
swords and being defeated.
- `Umar : You are a large army.

- Asad : This large army's size is not useful.  
Every one wishes only to save his own life.  
This army was gathered by greed  
and coercion. It is an army made up from armor and  
swords, but its men are like wood.  
They are but machines for destruction.  
They are machines for destruction, not humans  
An army like that is not fit to fight or strive hard.
- 'Umar : By God, they are thousands.
- Asad : But they lack what war needs: courage. And courage is not  
found without faith.
- 'Umar : Then by God, how does faith come?  
(Goes forward to the right to stand and talk to the people)  
O people, you are in the thousands here  
and they are only seventy plous people.
- Asad : They are seventy wise people who want  
to die for the sake of truth. Death is their goal.
- 'Umar : (Continuing) They are only seventy,  
but they are defeating you.
- Asad : But one of their swords is equal to  
a thousand swords!  
(Many people from 'Umar's army come forward with  
their swords, armor, and spears;  
'Umar stand on a branch of a tree giving them a speech).
- 'Umar : Woe to you, if you were thousands  
of sheep or goats, we would have been able to  
knock off those few enemies.  
(He orders them) No one fight them.  
They will be die even if they did  
not get anything from you except rocks.  
So throw rocks at them because at  
the end they will all die.  
(He orders them) Beware, none  
of you fight them one on one.  
Shoot them from far with arrows.  
Let the arrows fall on them like rain.  
Surround them by spears.  
Throw rocks at them.  
(Some men leave and 'Umar stays behind them ).
- Shimr : Burn the tent and who ever is inside,  
so when they come to save

It, we can attack them from behind.

**Asad** : There are children and women in the tent, and they are all the family of the Prophet.

**Shimr** : Never mind that.... Burn it. And that will keep Husayn's followers busy.

**Husayn** : (Comes from behind the stage to stand on the hill and raises his sword)

**Husayn** : (To Shimr) May you mourn, do you burn the house of the Prophet? Because that is his tent.

**Asad** : Do you burn the Prophet's face ?

**Shimr** : And so what if I burn it ?

(More of 'Umar's men gather around to surround the hill where Husayn's camp is found.)

**Asad** : (To Shimr) Are you becoming an infidel? Woe to you, what are you saying ?

**Husayn** : (to Shimr) You burn it ? May you not get help when you taste hell fire.

**Shimr** : (Shouting to people): I will burn the tent of the family of Husayn.. Who is coming with me?  
(Zeyd Bin Arqem comes out of 'Umar's tent raising his sword and going toward Shimr)

**Zeyd** : (Puts his sword in front of Shimr) Wait! May you be cursed.  
The goal is getting closer, the road is difficult, and our companions are humiliated!

**Shimr** : Zeyd, leave me alone.  
I will burn the tent of Husayn's family onto its people.  
So keep him busy for a while,  
Then go kill him.

- (Armed men surround the hill and the arrows keep falling on the hill. Women come out of the tent, screaming.)
- Women : O, what a catastrophe... how lonely we feel.. how estranged we are ... Do we get burned alive in our home ?
- Zaynab : (comes to front of women) Is there a Muslim among you who has a conscience? Come to defend the Prophet's sanctity! Is there anyone among who has honor? Come to defend women's sanctity!
- Asad : (Shouting to Shimr) Have you gone so low as to frighten women? Do you have no shame? (shimr leaves)
- Zeyd : (Shouting behind Shimr) Nol You coward. The bastard will be pleased with less than that. (Some men from 'Umar's barracks are shouting and they enter happily, in front of them is man 1.)
- The man : O, Bin Sa'd, we killed Bin 'Awsaja, so be pleased. O, 'Umar, we killed Bin 'Awsaja. O men, we killed Bin 'Awsaja. (Man 1 leaves)
- Zaynab : (On the top of a hill watching the battle from afar) Is there any helper? Is there any protector? Is there any guardian?
- Zeyd : (to the happy men) .. One like him gets killed and you are happy? Do you have no shame? So what will make infidels happy? How many times has he gone to war against infidels and defended the flag of Islam?
- Asad : (Sad and quiet) And I still remember Azerbaijan, when he fought there like a lion, destroying the enemy's fort. God have mercy on him.

- A man : (Happy) We killed the sons of Fatima.  
We killed all sons of Zaynab.  
We killed sons of Hassan and Husayn.  
We crushed the lions with rocks.
- (Zaynab enters the tent in a hurry and the voices of the women get louder.)
- Shouts : O how estranged we are .. How we will be humiliated after the killings of the men.  
O Hamza! O Grandfather! Your sons' blood is watering the sand.  
(From the other side, a man from `Umar's barracks enters and the distinguished man is with him.)
- Voice of a man : Sa'id Bin Sa'id has also fallen!  
(Sa'id enters from the hill about to fall and leaning on Bishr)
- The distinguished O my cousin Sa'id.. I wish you had listened to me.
- Sa'id : (To his cousin, the distinguished)  
Did you ever know love!  
Give me a sip of water if you can.
- The distinguished I am sorry, none of you can taste this water except by an order from Bin Zayad.  
Tell me your will.
- Sa'id : (falling) Me? My will to whom ?  
I do not ask you to take care of my children or my wife  
or my father, who is an old man, or my mother, who is an old woman.  
I want you to take care of Husayn  
my leader, the righteous Imam.
- The distinguished (Leaving) How sad. (He hides his cries.)
- Bishr : Give me your will in case I live after you.
- Sa'id : I want you to take care of Husayn!  
(falls from top of the hill, and off the stage.)
- Bishr : (shouting) Is there any water to strengthen me so I can fight this war?

(Leaves raising his sword, while  
another man enters.)

The man : Hurr has been killed... and also Nafi'.

Shimr : (Comes happily) .. We killed all of Husayn's  
friends while they killed only two hundred of us.

'Umar : So the only people left are Husayn, his sons and the women

Shimr : No, we killed all his sons too. The only  
one left is a child and he is sick.  
I do not know his name

Man (2) : Shimr, he is Zeyn Alabedeen

Hurr's voice : (From behind the hill) I am Hurr  
Alrihi, I am dying. O, Husayn,  
did we fulfill our duty?

Husayn's voice (From offstage) May God have mercy on you  
You have truly fulfilled your duty. (Sound of Husayn's crying.  
The mourning women enter on the hill, pulling their hair.)  
My heart breaks for the martyrs.  
My life weeps for the martyrs.  
For the sons of Fatima and Hayder.

'Umar : (Enters, talking to his men with pride.)  
Carry your wounded men, bury  
your dead, and leave the people you  
killed in the desert as flesh for  
wild animals. Leave them for the  
wind and vultures.  
And rest for a while... then get  
ready for Husayn, he is a whole  
army by himself.

Asad : (Coming, frightened)  
O, Husayn, why did you come here?  
Our coming here made us sinners.  
I advised you in Madina, but you did  
not listen to me.  
We killed the best of us.  
We have slain Hurr, who was a minaret  
of our century.  
He lived dreaming about justice and peace.  
He was a symbol of faithfulness.  
Here, we crushed all the symbols of guidance.  
We will live cursed by our martyrs.



Woe to us, how can we escape while we are  
surrounded by their curses?  
Woe to. Woe to us from all this blood.

'Umar : What are you saying, Asad? Are you  
hallucinating?

Asad : The young man Bishr has been killed,  
O how sorry I feel for him.  
The young man Bishr has been killed.  
and inside him seventy stapes!  
Bishr was the best young man in Madina  
We killed our elder BinMuthaher. How  
unhappy we are!  
BinSa'd do not you feel the woeful event  
I have killed Burayr, who used to teach Qur'an.  
O 'Umar BinSa'd, didn't not you cry for Bin 'Awsaja?  
Didn't you...

'Umar : (Interrupting) Hey, you, go away! And don't hallucinate!  
We will start the flight again. Get ready.  
The only one remaining is Husayn.

Asad : (Very sad) I spent all my life following his father.

'Umar : Then, after his father, you betrayed him  
and became the closest righteous man to Muawia.

Asad : (Exploding with anger.) I thought I will be able to help them  
but I am drowning in sins.  
And today, I see you all killing the son  
of a friend, and there is no way to save him.  
Today, I leave him to be killed.. Woe to me!  
(Asad moves to leave and 'Umar doesn't let him go.)  
I advised him in Madina.

Umar : (Insisting) I swear by the God of the  
throne, no one will cut off Husayn's head  
except you.  
Or do you think you will escape shedding his  
pure blood and leave me responsible?  
No, we will all be cursed equally, not just me.  
Should I be alone when the bad deeds are judged?  
No, but I will be the most distinguished when  
I take the rewards.  
(with pride and greed)  
Because I am the only leader of this  
army here!  
To me will be the ownership of Rayy and

Jurjan, to me alone!  
 To me alone will be their profit  
 I will make them my greatest properties  
 An ownership that even the ones who  
 have raped leadership and become tyrants in  
 Damascus will envy me for.  
 A new independent ownership  
 And I own it, I, Ibn Sa'd  
 And all know how great Sa'd is! The  
 one who liberated the countries, the  
 sword of God.

- The mourners : (Across the stage on the hill, Zaynab  
 and Sukayna appear in front of the  
 tent)  
 Woe is me .. woe is me.. for the son of Ali  
 O how he is lonely surrounded by his enemy.  
 Woe is me  
 In his hand is the sword of the  
 messenger of God.  
 God's enemy is surrounding him  
 Woe is me.  
 Woe is me for the thirsty, while  
 water flows everywhere  
 Woe is me.
- Sukayna : O, how he is a stranger among  
 men whose hearts are owned  
 by the devil.
- Zaynab : (Mourns) How he is a stranger among his enemy.  
 Let the eye of God guard him. Woe is me.  
 Woe is me, for a thirsty whose father is  
 at the greatest fountain  
 Woe is me .. woe is me!
- The mourners : Have mercy on us. O God, have mercy.  
 Woe is me .. woe is me.  
 We are thirsty, woe is me.  
 (Husayn enters, raising his  
 sword going towards the tent,  
 and he looks exhausted, suffering  
 from pain.)
- Husayn : (to Zaynab) By God, make them stop.
- Zaynab : Woe is me ... O my grandfather!  
 O God!

- Husayn : By God, make them stop.  
(To the women whose voices  
quieted down for a little)  
Be quiet for while.. we will  
have much crying later.
- The mourners : Woe is me .. woe is me.  
God have mercy on us, have mercy.  
(leaves, and all men leave, the only  
ones remaining on the hill are Husayn,  
Zaynab and Sukayna.)
- Zaynab : We were brought up with sorrow.  
Sorrow is the book of our life.
- Husayn : Sorrow will be for long, heavy and  
painful.
- Sukayna : By God, I do not know why whenever  
sorrow increases on us, Umayya's happiness  
increases?
- Husayn : My grandfather was also tested by sorrow  
even when he was victorious in war!  
he would not drink the cup of victory without tears.  
The day of Badr, this great happiness, God  
tested him by his daughter.
- Husayn : (Sad) That day .. Ruqila died!
- Sukayna : We are a sad house, my father.  
Why is sorrow written for the house  
of the prophet?
- Husayn : This is God's fate for us  
And by this God has purified the  
faithful hearts.  
My grandfather did not know the  
joy of victory.  
The wisdom of God was that God  
always kept him busy with tears.  
No matter how much God gave  
him blessings, he was always busy  
with sorrow.  
(Umar suddenly appears. With him  
are his men)
- 'Umar : Attack him now while he is busy  
with his family.

Because if he gets ready for you,  
no one of you knows how to escape alive.  
Let the arrows fall on him like rain.  
By God, you are thousands and  
he is all alone.  
(Some men leave and arrows fall  
on the hill.)

- Husayn: (rising up)  
O BinSa'd .. BinSa'd ..
- Asad : Stop throwing the arrows.  
Maybe he wants to surrender  
and we can avoid the fighting.
- Husayn : BinSa'd, may God cut your descendants  
into pieces.  
I pray to God that you will  
be slain in your bed.
- 'Umar : So you will not surrender to me?  
Son of Ali?  
All your companions have been killed.  
All your brothers .. all your sons..  
your nephews.  
All are dead .. except you!  
Husayn .. you are one person  
What can one person do facing  
many thousands?
- Husayn : I pray to God to turn you,  
you the most defiant to God,  
into monkeys and pigs.  
May God let you be governed  
by your oppressors.
- Asad : Leave him for a while.  
(to 'Umar) leave him. He might  
surrender to you in a while.  
(to Husayn) Why don't you save  
yourself? Pledge allegiance,  
then go back to where you came from.  
Then go back. Don't do what  
you are about to do.  
It is death as you saw it happen to your followers.  
Go back.
- Husayn : I will do what I have to do. There is no shame in death.  
If one's intention was to strive hard

as a Muslim, and he defended the righteous all  
by himself, and stayed away from the criminal.  
If I live, I will not regret, and if I  
die, I will not feel pain.  
It is punishment enough for you, to  
live under oppression.

- `Umar : (To his men) Leave him for now until  
you hear my orders.  
(Umar, Asad, and the men leave, while  
Husayn, Zaynab, And Sukayna remain  
on the hill)
- Husayn : (raising his sword) .. O Ahl al-Bayt  
It is time to leave, by God, it is time to  
say good-bye.
- Sukayna : By God, I don't want to live after this  
separation.
- Zaynab : This is how you give your life to death.  
(holding herself)
- Husayn : Then whom should I lean on? (moves)
- Sukayna : (screaming and frightened) Father, no!  
How can you leave?
- Husayn : Why should one not surrender to death  
when there is no one to help?
- Zaynab : (Faints suddenly) .. O Hamza ..  
O Hamza .. O my father .. my father I
- Husayn : (Continuing) Or do you think I should surrender  
to them, so you and I can be safe?  
No, sister, God forbade me from doing that.
- Zaynab, Sukayna: O our grandfather, How we are strangers here.
- Husayn : Do not cry now .. there will be much crying later.
- Sukayna : Father, you are walking to death because  
you are forced to.
- Husayn : This is my destiny, there is no escape from destiny.
- Sukayna : Take us back to grandfather's place,  
and save yourself.

- Husayn : That will not happen!
- Zaynab : If he doesn't do this, the road will not be straightened.
- Husayn : (toward the sky) O God, we do not have anyone except you.  
I will not go astray when you have guided me.  
I will not be lost when this world is full of Your mercy.  
I will not be humiliated when my pride is a blast of Your might.  
(Zaynab stands and prays.)
- Zaynab : There he is walking to God's enemy, in the name of God, relying on You.  
Do not let him down.  
There is not on this earth one, a son of Your Prophet, except him.  
And You know if they kill him, they will care for nothing after that .. Guard him.  
They are defying the whole world and everything in it.  
I pray to You .. help him  
O God we have no one except you
- Husayn : (Continues praying to God.)  
I am doing the impossible in order to reveal the truth.  
Light up my road with the rays of Your wisdom  
I am the martyr of truth losing  
In order to protect Your faith from losing  
Do not turn Your light from my face because miracles can be at the hand of the weak if they seek Your help.  
I seek Your help, You the Most High, the Supreme.  
So give me wisdom and strengthen me.  
I have risen to close the doors of falsehood.  
There is no one to help unless You are pleased with me.  
There is no escape except for Your protection.  
So do not let me down  
I submit myself to the light of Your

guidance.

All my companions are dead.

All my sons are perished.

All my nephews. All my brothers.

And I remain by myself.

I am the martyr.

I pray to You, God, that the world  
after me will not be empty from the  
soldiers of truth.

(Leaves in a hurry to go outside)

Sukayna : Father! No .. not  
Come back to me, father!  
(Husayn stops, worried)

Husayn : (to Zaynab) Sister, take her.  
Leave. It is time to go.  
(With strength) My feet have been fixed  
for this road.

Zaynab : (She gets Sukayna inside.)  
Be quiet, do not break your  
father's heart.  
Do not add more sorrow to his  
sorrows.  
What is in his heart now, is enough.  
And my daughter, it is enough  
that God is supporting him  
(Zeyn Alabedeen comes out from  
the women's tent, raises his sword)

Zeyn Alabedeen: I am coming, father, to defend you!

Husayn : No, Zeyn Alabedeen!  
(to Zaynab) sister take him away,  
so the world will not be empty  
of the Prophet's descendants.

Husayn : (He hugs Zeyn Alabedeen)  
No one remains from the prophet's  
descendant except you, go back, son.  
(Zaynab takes Zeyn Alabedeen as she  
hides her cries. Husayn goes far while  
Sukayna cries hard.)

Sukayna : He is going alone.  
He will face those thousands all alone.  
He will not come back. How will life be without him?  
(explodes with cries.)

Husayn : (Stops.) Death waits for me. I am  
coming to my death.  
I die defending my nation,  
and protecting my faith,  
So stop crying, my daughter,  
and be patient, my sister.  
(He leaves, raising his sword.)



#### Fourth Scene

(It is night in Karbala... desert, and bare hills ... Husayn alone in the place in the night .. and the moon is shining)

Husayn : I am here alone in the desert  
Nothing left except for snakes  
and wounds and the heavy, painful woes  
Nothing left except for the winds of death  
sounding in the desert  
and the cries of the insane thirst in the silent  
loss  
Where are my beloved ones, where are you ?  
Where are my boys .. Is there anything left  
other than loss ?  
(goes around the place shouting)  
Darkness .. darkness .. darkness  
(very sad) Here is where the ray diminishes  
Here is where the sanctity of words is violated  
Here is where snakes are stronger than humans  
regardless of the human's honor !  
Here is where the wolf is a powerful leader !!  
(looks around)  
Where are you my men, where are you ?  
Why don't you answer me? You used  
to respond quickly when I called for you.  
O Sa'id Bin Sa'id, where are you ?  
Burayr, where did you go ?  
Bishr, how did you perish ?  
O Hurr ... Habib Bin Matha'her ..  
O Zuhayr .. my brother Muslim .. O Muslim  
O Bin 'Awsaja ..  
Where are you all .. ? Where did you go?  
Where are my sons and my nephews ?  
And all my brothers ?  
Where are the young men .. the young men of the way?  
Nothing left from them except for a blast of  
sorrow like burning fire.  
Nothing left except for the blood spilled on the desert.  
And heads filled with knowledge, wisdom,  
fear of God, and dreams of justice  
are falling in the desert.  
And noble, beating hearts.  
were led to wild animals.  
O, how much can a human bear in this life?  
O, what a catastrophe!!

How can this earth bear this and not crumble  
 into pieces ?  
 O for this night that lays its heaviness on  
 my chest!  
 O, my God, all this disaster, and the sky  
 is not yet falling to the earth!  
 (With pain) All that, my God,  
 and the shining moon still sends its light ?  
 And the breeze of the night still blows?  
 And the blue stars still sparkle?  
 And the sun continues to rise ?  
 (He walks around)  
 O my God ... All that blood and the  
 people are thirsty ?!  
 O for the loss of the one who lives to  
 mourn all one's friends !  
 O for the loneliness of the one who lives on  
 while all his loved ones are dead !  
 (Walks around) Where are you? Talk to me  
 Where are you?  
 You who are the most wise in your sayings when  
 foolishness arises.  
 Talk to me, you the ones that filled this life  
 with smiles,  
 and sympathy, peace, kindness, and speech.  
 After you, who will stand for justice, wisdom, and  
 truth, and for the sorrows of orphans and  
 widows!  
 O Sa'id, you the funny one, stand ..  
 Why are your laughs not heard anymore ?  
 Where did your wisdom go ?  
 O the brave Hurr.  
 You have died.  
 And the worms and vultures scrambled  
 over your body  
 O Habib... Burayr...  
 The best of the Qur'an readers in the  
 two Iraqs, can't you hear me ?  
 O Zuhayr... Muslim, get up...  
 O the old man who witnessed Badr and  
 Hunayn  
 Bishr !Woe is me when I mourn Bishr ..  
 (Walks around quickly.)  
 O Sa'id... O Burayr... O Habib... O Zuhayr...  
 Talk to me!  
 Muslim, stand up!  
 Nafi', rise up!  
 (Exhausted and quiet) Death has taken all of them !  
 And I am here alone (falls to the ground, crying.)

I wish that this blood, when it flows in this dark night,  
 I wish for it to be a dawn for the people !  
 (He rises )  
 Why does this blood not make the dawn !  
 I wish for it to attack the enemies like a flood,  
 a catastrophe, and  
 I wish that it makes peace for this world.  
 (Softly) O my dear ones, I have become all alone.  
 I am alone and deep within the darkness of night  
 there still remains a ray of hope.  
 No one is left after you on this way except me.  
 (Sad) Nothing is left after you except departure.  
 (Suddenly shouts) O for these souls in this  
 dark, heavy night.  
 You, the one who passes the sad night,  
 O, the souls of my forefathers and my  
 great ancestors.  
 Shout, so the Ignorant will rise against  
 their oppressors.  
 Lift the flag of martyrs in every oppressed land  
 Make from this flesh blazing flags that burn  
 both the oppressors and the one who  
 accepts oppression.  
 And ignite the fire in the hearts of the  
 meek.  
 Make our cries like the trumpet that  
 sounds in the ears of the Ignorant.  
 Make our flesh bloody truthful flags  
 that color the world the color of  
 blood from century to century.  
 Spread the flesh with the blowing winds  
 that bring anger to the oppressor, and  
 curses to the one who is silent against the  
 oppressor and brings regret deep into the soul  
 of the one who clapped for the oppressor.  
 So let this spilled blood be like a stream  
 of curses that flows with waves like mountains  
 that destroy those who have gone astray deliberately  
 or those who made people go astray.  
 Shout from the river of knowledge to  
 the people who cry in the valley of tears  
 Do not cry or mourn .. But take revenge  
 for the ones among you who get oppressed  
 and the ones of you who get killed unjustly,  
 because it is the revenge of God, so seek it.  
 O, the souls of all martyrs! Remind them that  
 I am still the revenge of God in them.  
 (With deep sorrow) If I live when I am a martyr.  
 Why not be a martyr? I will be go alone.

The lesson is not in the killing of Husayn son of Ali, but the lesson is in the people who killed him .. and why they killed him.  
 I am the revenge of God in you .. so seek it !!  
 (Leaves in a hurry with his sword, we hear sounds of swords, and some frightened men come.)

- The men: I do not want to do anything with Husayn  
 - The one who kills the prophets' sons is an infidel.  
 - I will not be an infidel in the last days of my life.
- `Umar : (Enters frightened and behind him is Shimr)  
 O people, he is carrying the sword of God.  
 There is no excuse for you.
- Shimr : I do not see any one in the army who can defeat him.  
 (Some of `Umar's other men come, frightened.)
- A man : We can not stand this, let us go, and you face him!
- Shimr : All of them are running away from him.  
 Think, BinSa'd! He is getting away from us.
- `Umar : (Shouting to Shimr) Divide the army into three groups!  
 One group shoot fire-arrows at him...
- The men : You are asking us to kill the son of the prophet!
- `Umar : (continuing) And the other group shoot arrows at him!  
 (He goes back and forth shouting to his men.)  
 No one tries to fight with him.  
 No one duels with him.  
 Throw spears and shoot arrows at him.  
 (All men leave)
- Asad : All of the army has become like Wahshy and he has become like Hamza.
- `Umar : (Continues, fearfully) And from a distance, throw rocks at him.
- Shimr : Throw fire and rocks at him.

Asad : (From a height) There are twenty arrows  
inside him and he continues to fight  
(Puts his face in his hands.)

`Umar : (To the army) Shoot more arrows and throw more spears.

Shimr : Chastise him. Make him suffer. Make him suffer.

`Umar : (Exhausted) Give him the most severe  
punishment ever.  
Shoot him with spears and arrows  
(Zayd BinArqem enters looking  
exhausted)

Zayd : (Holds himself with difficulty) There  
he is falling to the ground, wounded!  
How sorry I feel!

The men : Woe is me ... woe

Zayd : How are we going to escape God's  
punishment on the Day of Judgment

Asad : O, I wish I could save him now!

Shimr : (Raises his sword against Asad.)  
So try, if you can!

Asad : (Continues) By God, `Umar, how are  
we going to be saved when we stand in front  
of God?  
Woe to us, our helpers are  
Yazid and Mu'awiya  
And Husayn son of Ali comes  
and his helpers are his faith and  
the prophet.  
Woe be to us .. woe be to us, and then  
how can we escape?

`Umar : (Shouting) No, all the woe is to you  
only .. Do not mention the day  
of judgment .. woe to you.

Shimr : (Happy) By God, Husayn BinAli  
has fallen. He's down, dying.

Zayd : All the people have been killed.

- Asad : (Hides his face between his hands.)  
Shame on me for the rest of my life  
I wish I could save him now.
- `Umar : (To Asad) Go now and cut off his head!
- Asad : (Shouting) Do you want to be saved  
from the killing of Husayn and  
make me responsible for it in front of  
God?
- `Umar : Go now and hang his head on a top  
of a spear!
- Shimr : (to Asad, pointing to `Umar) This is  
the leader of the army, you must  
obey him.
- `Umar : If you disobey me, I will cut off your  
head!  
(Asad goes behind the hill and  
disappears from sight. The moans  
of Husayn get louder.)
- Voice of Husayn Will I be killed unjustly while  
Muhammad is my grandfather?  
And will I be slain thirsty, while  
I am the son of the one who  
gave water to all the thirsty  
people in this world?  
And will I be violated, while my mother  
is Fatima?  
(Zaynab come out, frightened by the voice of Husayn,  
and goes through the crowd to face `Umar BinSa'd,  
but he turns and can not look at her.)
- Zaynab : BinSa'd! BinSa'd! Can't  
you hear me? Answer me, `Umar!  
Husayn, son of the prophet  
is being killed, and you are watching!  
Can't you save him? You are the  
closest to him?!
- `Umar : (shouting to the men behind the hill)  
Ride your horses over Husayn's chest and on his back!  
Cut off his head! Hurry up.  
Asad! Don't run away, and don't come  
back without his head!

**Zaynab** : (Shouting desperately.)  
May lightening strike you  
And thunder take your  
family after you are dead.  
May God bring you His anger.

**Asad** : (Comes in a hurry and shaking.) No,  
enough! Do not trade this world for the head  
of the son of the prophet.  
He was looking at me, woe to me.  
I was looking into the eyes of the prophet!  
No! `Umar, no!  
No! I seek refuge with God from  
meeting him and being responsible  
for the killing of Husayn

**Shimr** : (To `Umar, pointing to Asad.) We  
can not trust him, he is ailing apart.

**`Umar** : In his heart, there are still remains  
of support for Ali.

**Shimr** : Send another one.

**`Umar** : (To the distinguished who is  
standing with some men on a lower  
level.)  
You go!

**The distinguished** Me .. me go? I am only a distinguished man  
A honest merchant

**`Umar** : You ?

**The distinguished** And if you want the truth, I am  
only a merchant, not honest or clean  
But I am not a killer!  
I am not a butcher of humans.  
O leader, I did come here  
for this, but I came here to take  
money from Umayyads  
So leave me alone .. You killed in  
this war the people most beloved people to me.  
How unhappy I am after the death  
of my cousin.  
(Mourning) O Sa`id Bin Sa`id

**`Umar** : You can have all the money that  
you want if you bring us the head

of the son of All.

- The distinguished: (Frightened) After this, what is the the benefit of all the money in the world ?!
- 'Umar : Then you will be killed if you don't obey! (The distinguished leaves.)
- Zaynab : (Shouting) Is there a Muslim man among you ? O you men .. (men stand in front of her with arrows)
- Sukayna : (Comes out from the tent.) Is there a Muslim among you who will protect the daughter of the son of your prophet from his killers ? Woe to you! How will you escape punishment on the day of judgment?
- Zaynab : I come to you, my God, so paralyze the hand of fate.
- Sukayna : O, I wish for a miracle to take my thirst away, so, father, I can lift this catastrophe off of you.
- Zaynab : The vultures and wild animals are robbing life. Woe ... the wolves are robbing life!
- 'Umar : Get her away from here! (Pokes at her chest with spears her chest, so she goes back. The distinguished comes frightened)
- The distinguished : In his eyes, a great light that shocks every one who looks at him. Woe to me because of his looks! No! No, O leader of the army! No!
- Zeyd : Looks that God has given him, looks that shake the ones who know him looks like the rays of truth that feed everlasting regret to those who have honest faith.
- 'Umar : (To another man) Won't you go?



- The man : Excuse me from that, because I am exhausted, by God.  
And I can barely carry my sword.  
It is enough for me that I guard the water.  
It is enough that I stop him from getting water.
- Shimr : Woe to you! What is the matter with you all?  
It is just a man's head. No matter what, it is still only a man's head! (To man 1) Haven't you ever cut off a man's head in you life?
- The distinguished : It is the head of a leader who there is no one like him in this world.
- Asad : (Desperately) It is the head of the prophet of God, not the head of Husayn!
- Zayd : Where are you going from God ?  
And today you are beating the prophets for the sake of the oppressors?
- 'Umar : Have you become cowards?  
Is there no one among you one who is strong enough to take Husayn's head?
- Zaynab : (In her hopelessness and despair) Woe to you 'Umar!  
May curses fall on you in hell fire.  
May curses melt your soul  
And may your flesh fall to the earth while you still live, piece piece piece.  
(She moves the spears and goes through.)  
You are insane in blood. You think you will disappear in hell fire? No! You will be punished every time a tear drops in the memory of the martyr of the truth.
- Zayd : There you are attacking the family of the prophet.  
O you shameful son, your father was the honest one that guarded the prophet?
- 'Umar : (Suddenly exhausted) O how unhappy I am, what can I do when Yazid orders me ?!  
Here is his letter to me, ordering me

to kill all the sons of Ali.  
 (Takes a letter from his pocket and  
 waves it in the air)  
 O Husayn, woe to my  
 pains I O my great regret!  
 I was ordered to come back with  
 him or else not come back at all.  
 And he had the chance to pledge  
 or to escape, but he neither escaped, nor pledged I

- Zeyd : I wish I was in your place so I  
 could give my life to him ..
- Asad : O how I feel sorry for Husayn  
 and his family, for this destiny and  
 this death I
- Zaynab : May you be cursed, did you think about what  
 are were going to do?  
 Woe to you, did you know what sanctity  
 you are violating?  
 What pure blood you have spilled?  
 The heart is turned away, you do not realize.  
 I pray to God that He brings those people  
 whom you supported to slay you in your own bed.
- `Umar : (Shouts loudly)  
 Let the sounds of horses silence Zeynab!  
 Let the sounds of arrows silence her!  
 All of you gather around him!  
 All of you! Cut off his head!
- Man 2 : None of us will kill him!
- Man 3 : His looks paralyzed by my sword.
- Shimr : Do not look into his eyes.  
 Turn him on his back.  
 And I will slay him from behind.  
 (Goes down hurrying with his  
 sword in his hand, and goes  
 behind the hill.)
- Asad : (To `Umar) By God, if I were given  
 all Umayyads property, it would still be  
 less than what this act deserves!
- `Umar : (Arrogantly)  
 How will I escape my

punishment?  
Stomp your horses' over  
Husayn's chest!  
How will I be saved ?...  
Where .. where .. ?  
Stomp your horses on  
Husayn's back (Leaves hurrying.)

Zeyd : Here you have killed Husayn!  
Woe to you from the chastisement  
of the hell fire!  
You disobeyed your God, woe to  
you and your hypocrisy.  
You killed a person who is better  
than everyone else,  
and you became hypocrites for the  
sake of the most evil ones  
You killed a person who came to  
save you and correct what has  
been done wrong.  
So, by the the sender of the  
messengers with the light of  
guidance, you will reach guidance.  
O, you a treacherous people,  
you will not succeed  
until you repent for what has  
happened.  
(He beats on his head and his chest.)

Zaynab : (Goes through the spears)  
Woe is me! You have killed him!

Sukayna : (goes after Zaynab) Father! O, father!  
O my grandfather! O our martyrs!  
Hurry up from all the layers of the sky  
This is Al-Huusein lying in the middle  
of the desert, thirsty, watered with blood.  
His shroud is the frightening wilderness.  
Father! Woe is me! O my grandfather!  
Woe is me! Woe is me after your loss,  
father! (She enters the tent, crying.)

Zaynab : O, you killer of the hero of truth and  
piety!  
O, you stranglers of the seeked hope!  
Woe to you! You stomp your horses  
feet on Husayn's body, the son of  
the pious martyr.  
Woe to you! You have stomped the

The blood of the messenger, the pure,  
 O, the mighty body, was a Jew, rise and  
 and on the just souls of the great sorrow,  
 You the fingers of the prophet's grave  
 and victims of the sacrifice of his family!  
 You, the ones who chew the martyr's liver  
 You, the sinners of the light of the  
 civilization and truth and peace!  
 (Loudly) You, the stranders of dreams!  
 You have united the lives of revenge.  
 You the falsers of the flag of falsehood!  
 (Exhausted) You, the slayers, have  
 human beings when humans live with the  
 or for justice.  
 (With sorrow) Is there any among you after  
 this day, O Muslim!  
 !! uoy rot zlow approve! the lipa uoy unbuild  
 .noshoit es to the shurina) where did you go?  
 .nwab er brool juv boild ant to zlow ant  
 Where did the savage go?  
 (With sorrow) What will you have  
 when you present the heads of  
 plous to the oppressor?  
 .mud uoy juv juv oled of sunitno ilw il  
 Woe to you, you eradicated to zlow ant  
 of Ali from this earth  
 May everlasting shame be on you  
 when you please the basins by shedding  
 the blood of the prophet  
 O, grandfather Have you watched  
 the pupil of your eye lying on this soil?  
 His shroud is the blowing in the winds  
 and his grave is the shadow of the clouds.  
 The believers in what you have brought  
 have knled the son of your daughter.  
 There are mountains crying for him  
 but your men have shredded him into pieces!  
 The angels are screaming in mourning,  
 and pure beauty mouns in heaven  
 The birds cry with their chimps  
 (To the men) Woe to you for your sin.  
 Woe to you. Woe is me.  
 The sky is about to rain blood,  
 and your horses are crying while  
 stomping him, woe to you!  
 The stones are about to cry with the  
 crucified blood on your sins if

There the sky has become like blood  
 and the earth has become colored ~~with~~ blood.  
 The water of Euphrates has become ~~like~~ blood.  
 All the sand has become drops of ~~blood~~.  
 You will not sit with your children ~~or~~  
 your spouses without the blood of  
 the martyr running in front of ~~you~~  
 and behind you. The walls of your ~~houses~~  
 are bloody. The corners of your ~~houses~~ are bloody.  
 The poles of your tent are bloody.  
 The seconds of your mortal life,  
 the heavy beats of your chest,  
 your nightmares, your women, ~~your future,~~  
 your days, all have become blood. ~~Woe for the blood!!~~  
 In every land and in every sky,  
 you will not see except blood!  
 The humiliating thirst will dry ~~your~~  
 throat and your veins !!  
 Husayn's blood flows on your heads,  
 blinding your sight and revenge ~~waits for you !!~~  
 The color of blood will remain on ~~the horizon.~~  
 The rivers of the blood will flood ~~the dawn.~~  
 From the thirst of Husayn, an  
 everlasting burning echo will ~~remain~~  
 that will burn the bare lands and ~~the greenery.~~  
 It will continue to blast you until ~~you burn.~~  
 The thirst of Husayn is your  
 punishment and your hell,  
 and the blood of Husayn is your ~~death!~~  
 (Getting exhausted with last words)  
 Woe to you! Woe be to you!

(Sukayna comes out from the tent  
 in a hurry, frightened and  
 some women come behind her with  
 torn clothes and pulled hair.)

Sukayna : (Shouting) O, aunt, the wolves ~~are~~  
 robbing us! O aunt, we are ~~fighting for the~~  
 clothes on our backs! The men ~~took our~~  
 jewelry and our belongings!  
 Save us, they are threatening ~~our security.~~

Zaynab : Take away your hands you the  
 most evil of all people!  
 If you are not Muslims and you  
 are not men, do not be oppressors.

Zayd : (Rising, angry)

Then, be Arabs and return to your customs!  
 The sanctity of the family of Muhammad is,  
 In turn, after the sanctity of Quraysh and Mu'awiya.  
 Woe to you... woe for the anger of the prophet's son  
 if you violate them!

- Asad** : (To his men) O men come to save  
 the sanctity of you leader, Amir Almuamineen,  
 the sanctity of Yazid.
- Zaynab** : (Crying) Has the day come that the  
 name of the best messengers of God  
 is not enough for protection ?!  
 Do the women of Ahel Abyet have  
 to seek it from Umayyads ?  
 (Rising to the men)  
 You do not dare to touch the women  
 of the bastard in the rooms of the big castles,  
 but you attack the daughters of  
 the best messengers of God as  
 they are lost here ..  
 Do you kill the son of the prophet  
 and you rob his women ? I swear  
 that I will avenge him!  
 The hour of revenge will come.
- Shimr** : By God, you, the daughters of Muhammad,  
 are captives. You are the provision.  
 (With some men, they herd and drive the women  
 with their swords and spears.)
- Asad** : (Comes with his men and raises his sword.)  
 Take away those spears from these pure women..  
 If you, the worst of the people, choose  
 to stoop that low, then I and all my  
 tribe will protect the women !
- Zeyd** : And I and all my tribe will also  
 protect the women  
 (Zeyd and Asad with their men come in  
 between the women and Shimr and his men.)
- Asad** : You unhappy ones, go to the back.  
 Back up! Whoever comes forward,  
 his mother will mourn him.
- Voices from outside** The head of Husayn is paraded around!
- Zaynab** : (Standing, but very exhausted)

O how lost are we! Woe is me!  
O how we will be humiliated  
after your death!  
(Men and women who didn't fight in the  
war come in from Kufa.)

A man : The head of Husayn is paraded around!!

Men and women: Woe is us .. woe is us!  
Do not take the head of Husayn  
to the East of the world or to the West,  
the head will stay in my heart!

Zeyd : (Crying) O how sorry I feel! Husayn  
has been killed and I did not protect  
him!!

Asad : (Exhausted) O how sorry I am, they  
have slain the martyr, son of the  
martyr and we were watching!

Sukayna : O the God of Abraham, destroy  
them all with your fire!

Voices : O God!

Sukayna : O God of Ismail, Let your enemy  
be slain in his own bed!

Voices : O God!

Zaynab : O the one who waters the thirsty,  
let their thirst be watered only by blood.  
I have prayed to you, so inflict  
your punishment

(Umar calls from the top of the  
hill with excitement)  
Tie the women's hands so they  
will be driven to Yazid like  
slaves, and if they shout and  
dare to cry, tie their mouths  
And now, parade the heads  
around on the spears  
and leave the bodies of those  
who have been killed here for  
the wolves to eat.

(Some other men and women of Kufa

come in mourning and 'Umar runs  
in a hurry as if he is running away.)

The moumers : Do not put Husayn in any  
grave in East or West of this world,  
the grave is in my heart.

Sukayna : (In front of the moumers) Are you  
weeping? May your tears never  
dry and never cease!  
My father has been lost because of you!  
Are you crying? The tears of  
all the world will not relieve our misery!  
What will weeping benefit today  
May your regret never end!

Shimr : Take the head of Husayn  
son of Ali to the price BinZeyad  
Let the head be paraded around  
on all the roads, then take it to the  
palace of Yazid in Damascus  
And take all the women and  
children with you, let them ride  
on the camels.  
(The eyes of Zaynab always toward  
the head as it is made to go around  
and she is crying quietly.)

Zaynab : (With deep sorrow)  
O grandfather, there is the pupil  
of your eyes!  
Woe is me .. woe is me!  
Will God inflict his retribution?  
Religion will be lost if he did not  
inflict retribution.

Shimr : Silence here! Silence here!

Zaynab : (Crying and exhausted as she  
goes far to the back of the stage, where  
the head is made paraded around, and the  
voices of moumers are getting louder.)

O my brother! Brother!  
I wish heaven had its covering removed.  
I wish the mountains were made to pass away,  
and you did not die .. did not die.  
I wish the hell were kindled up  
I wish the stars darken ..



I wish if the seas were set on fire,  
(completely exhausted) and you  
did not die .. you did not die ..

### The fifth Scene

(It is night in the palace of Yazid BinMu'awiya in Damascus, with all the wealth and luxury, a golden pitcher of alcohol and cups full of jewelry, a beautiful blond slave, and Yazid is gasping for air as if he were running .

At the front is a window where scenes of Damascus appear, and there is a throne in the room elevated by a step. To the left, there is a door that is covered by a luxurious curtain, and to the right another door like it)

Yazid : Race me again, my girl from Cyprus.

The slave : No .. I am angry, my lord.  
You have made the Persian and  
brunette Egyptian excel over me.

Yazid : By God, I love you the most of all  
(lovingly) do not call me "my lord"  
call me "my Yazid." (More lovingly)  
This night is for you I

The slave : I am only a slave.

Yazid : Race me just as you raced my monkey.

The slave : You give the monkey much more than you give me.  
A collar made out of gold with precious stones.  
And on him, the most precious clothes, while  
I do not have anything, even though I gave up my husband from  
Cyprus for you .. did you forget ?

Yazid : (Throws at her a breathtaking necklace)  
Do you sell your gifts? This is wealth that  
you can live on for the rest of your life.  
Are you pleased ?

The slave : Then I will make you drink alcohol from my hand.  
(She brings the cup toward his mouth. A big  
cup that she is holding with the both of  
her hands. He drinks, then stops suddenly)

Yazid : No, but stand up and race me. (Worrying, and  
thinking) I won the race with my monkey, and when  
you race him you can not win, but yesterday  
morning, I raced you in the garden,  
and, by God, you won the race.  
(With pain)  
This thing is worrying my mind from yesterday.

(He shouts) Race me! Race me so I can solve this dilemma. This is a problem that is bothering your lord, so solve the problem.

The slave : First avenge for me some of your friends. There is a man among them who has been flattering me and looking at me with certain looks.

Yazid : How is that ? That is impossible. Impossible !

The slave : (Continues teasing) And sometimes he touches my breasts.

Yazid : But it is because of them that the power of Umayyads been established. They are the most faithful of all people to me. They are the ones who liberated Cyprus during the days of my father. They are the ones who broke the power of Ali's sons. Or is it the hatred that you carry in your heart you the daughter of the prince of Cyprus? Those are the people who took away the might of your people!

The slave : By God, you will not be my master Yazid, who has power and wealth. If you do not protect me I (With caution) O my lord, you can either listen to me or laugh at me but I am now one of your women and since I came in your palace, I have become your sanctity. By God, they are cheating you behind your back! (Whispering) Some of them sought to make me yield to them.

Yazid : Name them to me.

The slave : One of them is called Asad. He came to me last night after I sang to you.

Yazid : Asad? No. He is a respectable elderly man, and faithful. He came with the caravan of the distinguished with the head of the son of Ali.

- The slave : He was chasing me. He is a dirty old man,  
and, by God, he is your enemy.
- Yazid : And who else ?  
Give me their names (Yazid gives her  
a piece of paper) Tomorrow I will  
throw them in jail so they will  
receive unbearable punishment.  
And if they were influential men  
we will send to them soldiers of honey.  
Are you pleased? I So go ahead and  
race me!
- The slave : (Laughing with happiness)  
O my lord, I race your monkey  
and win over him, so there is no problem.  
I win the races with my lord and with his monkey.  
And I might even win the race with his tiger!
- Yazid : Impossible! Impossible!  
Where is my monkey?  
(He claps) Boys! Race me now in this room  
(A boy comes in from the left door.)  
Where is my monkey? Call for your lord the  
dear monkey Bin Qabees.
- The boy : (In a normal tone) My master,  
the monkey sleeps now in the  
palace of the women.
- Yazid : Leave now you foolish one and  
do not mention this to anyone, if  
you do, then mourn yourself.  
You are a foolish monkey trainer!  
May God make you ugly!  
(The boy leaves running from where  
he came and his hand on his mouth as  
if he is trying to cover his laughs.)
- Yazid : What is he doing in the castle of the slaves?
- The slave : (Laughing loudly) Some of your  
women, my lord, love monkeys!  
And they make the meeting of  
the monkey excel over love of Yazid!
- Yazid : I have hundreds of slaves!  
I can not satisfy all of them!

- The slave : Not all in the castle, my lord,  
love you like me, the girl from  
Cypress, although she spends  
all her night with fear and stress.
- Yazid : This night is for you.
- The slave : Here at your throne ?!
- Yazid : If you want that, or in your room.  
After I meet the captives, I will come there.  
Make your room smell very nice. Go now, if you want,  
or if you want, you can enjoy the captives.
- The slave : My room is above the road, and  
near to my room is the head of Husayn.  
When the night arrives, the  
wave of darkness brings to  
me voices of cries and weeping,  
and I imagine great ghosts  
and floods of blood crawling  
to me carrying the bodies of  
dead people. And lamentable voices  
whispering to me: I am thirsty... thirsty.  
And with the voice a groaning that burns I
- Yazid : (Shouting) Go to the monkey,  
maybe this fear will go away I
- The slave : (Rebellious) Do not say that to me!  
I am the daughter of a prince and  
I was a wife to a prince from Cyprus.  
I am not like those who wander in  
the streets of Damascus looking like bums!  
(Yazid sits on his throne in a formal position.)
- Yazid : What do you have to do with the  
matter of Husayn son of Ali,  
woman? (Brutally) Confess! Who has  
pushed you to me?! Who has inspired you to bother  
me? If you do not reveal, I will be your killer.
- The slave : (Frightened) What do I have to  
do with all that, my lord?  
Since the head of Husayn  
was hung outside my room,  
I am in constant fear.  
All night, I am sleepless

- and my days are unbearable pain.  
Change my room. That is all I am asking from you.  
(With real fear) All night long, I see blood around me, and I see the head of Husayn moving.
- Yazid : (Raging) O you guards! All my guards!  
(Some of the guards come in. With them is the boy, trainer of the monkey, from the left door.)
- Guards and Boy : My master!
- Yazid : (Pointing to the slave) Drag her away. Take her and put her in the prison with the robbers. And now, bring me the women of Husayn. Bring all the captives and my faithful men.
- (Some of the guards drag the slave away and leave from the left door, and some come in from the right door with the captives whose their hair is uncovered. They are driven by men with spears, and Shlmlr is in front of these men. Among the captives is Zaynab and Sukayna. The women are exhausted and their clothes torn.)
- The slave : (As they are dragging her away) The head of the son of Ali is moving!! There it is blocking my road and your road!
- Yazid : (Grabbing himself) Throw her to the sea so she can swim to her people. Maybe the head of the son of Ali will help her then.  
(They take the girl offstage.)
- Zaynab : (looking at the place woefully) Whereever you walk on this earth, you will not see except drops from his blood.
- Sukayna : (Looks around the place, fearfully.) O aunt, this throne is floating on a sea of the martyrs' blood.
- Yazid : (Leaves his thrown faking difficulty and goes to watch the captives.) Silence!  
(To the guards) Do not listen to the hallucinations of the women!
- Zaynab : You will not hear for the rest of

your life anything but cries and warnings.

Women : (Weeping) Woe to the widowers  
Woe for the mourners  
O how lonely we feel after the  
assassination of Husayn, son  
of Ali.

Yazid : (Still looking and thinking .. but  
now stressfully)  
Silence them, they have spoiled  
my night!

Zaynab : (Warning) The night will become  
woes and lamentation on you  
and the early morning breeze  
will become frozen.  
(With pain) You are here a prince  
in the unjust castle.  
(Warning) You will be in the wilderness.  
Under its mouth, lies the grave,  
and the dead will walk toward you.  
(Suddenly, with great fear)  
There is the head of Husayn  
spanking you! It is sparkling in this weeping night  
to reveal your fate to the people.

(Yazid crawls to his thrown and  
climbs to sit on it. When he sits  
on it, he grabs onto it and gasps for air  
out of fear, trying to hold himself.)

Yazid : Noli Enough!! Silence her! Silence her!

Zaynab : (Continues) It is crushing your chest!  
Drops of blood is falling from it on  
your face and on your hands. You, the killer  
of the victim. And on your thrown is blood,  
and on your evil bed is blood, and on the walls of this castle  
is blood. Blood is coming out of everything here .. Blood!  
I swear by God, this blood will not wash away until we  
inflict our retribution!

Yazid : (Holding himself) All this blood is not frightening me.  
These are your woes falling far away.  
and chastising you alone, and your calls do not reach  
my ears. (He is settled on his thrown and holding onto it.)  
Go ahead and shout more.

Zaynab : Rocks do not soften by tears or hot groaning. Rocks are deaf.

Yazid : (Laughing savagely as he looks at the women.)  
"I avenge myself from you, Husayn"  
(The sound of a crow outside.)

A man from his  
inner circle : That is a crow shouting  
a warning for bad luck.  
Go away, crow!

Yazid : "the crow shouted, so I  
said, shout or do not  
shout since I have fulfilled  
my revenge to the prophet."

Zaynab : O you unhappy, transgressor,  
you cursed one!

Yazid : "I wish that my elders  
in Badr could have witnessed"  
I wished my grandfather  
could have witnessed I

Zaynab : They are in hell fire, your  
elders from the infidels of Badr  
And on top of them is your  
grandmother, Hind.  
Upon her neck a halter of  
strongly twisted rope.  
She is given  
a drink of boiling water.  
Her mouth is the one  
that ate the liver !

Yazid : "The Hashims has played  
with power. No news  
had come nor revelation  
had came down  
We straightened what  
had been twisted at Badr, and  
now is straight  
We took our revenge  
from you, Husayn!"

(Zaynab is going around  
toward the window and  
looking to the sky.)



- Zaynab : (Shouting) O grandfather,  
my brother is dead now!  
O grandfather, I mourn today,  
my brother, do not be sad.
- Yazid : Who is the winner today Zaynab ?
- Zaynab : If you went to the mosque a day  
to do Athan and praised my grandfather,  
you would know who is the winner among us !  
But If you do not know who is  
the winner, then who can give  
hearing to the deaf ?
- Yazid : Woe to you, the sister of Husayn son of Ali.  
Woe the daughter of Ali. God's mercy on BinMaigam .
- Zaynab : God's mercy on my father, not his killer!  
God's mercy to my brother, not his slayer!
- Sukayna : What revenge you do have against  
the messenger of God that  
you herd us as captives on camels ?  
Is not enough that you killed the men ?  
(A man from Yazid's inner circle  
looks at the women and stops by Sukayna.)
- The man from  
inner circle : O who beautiful you are.  
How nice you smell!
- Zaynab : Turn your eyes away from us  
We are not captives.
- The man from  
inner circle : (to Yazid pointing to Sukayna)  
Give me that and all thanks to you my lord!  
She is the best gift !
- Sukayna : (Holds onto her aunt, frightened)  
O aunt .. is there a protection ..  
Is there a guardian ?  
Will the daughters of the prophet  
become captives?  
Will I become a slave to be sold  
and bought ?
- Zaynab : (Hugs her dearly) No, do not be  
afraid. This will never happen .

- Sukayna : No, he will do it if he wants.  
Nothing will stop him if he wants!
- The man of  
inner circle : O my lord, the generous, I  
repeat my request to you  
Won't you give her to me  
in return for my obedience to you?
- Sukayna : (Frightened) O my aunt I
- Zaynab : Do not be afraid. this will  
never happen. Do not be  
afraid Sukayna!
- Yazid : If we want it to be, it will be done I
- Zaynab : This will not happen, Yazid!
- Yazid : Nothing is difficult to me after  
your invention has failed.  
(Warning) O you, daughter of Ali.
- Zaynab : You will never dare to do it you, son of Mu'awiya.
- Yazid : Do I fear you? (Laughing)
- Zaynab : (Continues) Unless you leave our religion.
- Yazid : No, your father is the one who left  
the religion, and your brother and all his followers I
- Zaynab : It was with the religion of my brother and  
my father and my grandfather that your father was  
guided in the past.
- Yazid : (Raising his sword) O the daughter  
of the enemy of God, you are lying!  
(Some other swords are raised and spears  
are lifted and pointed to Zaynab.)
- Zaynab : You are a tyrant!  
You oppress others by your power  
and you act unjustly!
- The man from  
inner circle : We have nothing to do with that  
O Amir Almuameneem

Just give her to me and let me  
deal with her.

Yazid : (With stress) May God give you  
sudden death !

The man from  
inner circle : Why ? Just give me the slave.

Yazid : O you the worst of my inner  
circle! Stay away from me, may you  
be given death!  
(to the guards) Drag him away and  
put him in the prison.  
He made us hear things we do not like.  
He is inventing in Islam something like  
rust that can not be polished ..

The man of  
inner circle : (As some other men dragging him outside)  
What do I have to do with Islam that I add to it ?  
The one who knows it innovates to it  
Like you, my lord Yazid!

Yazid : (Shouting) Kill him!

A man : With honey?

Yazid : No, with an arrow or a sword  
And spread the news that I  
punished him the most severe  
punishment for he attacked  
the sanctity of the prophet !

Zaynab : (Whispering to Sukayna)  
It is a ruling of falsehood,  
lies, and fabrication!

Shimr : (Approaches Yazid with pride)  
"Fill my bags with silver and gold  
I have slain the pious master  
I have killed the best of people  
who had the best father and best mother  
and the most generous of the people.  
I have stabbed him by the arrow until he turned  
and I have slain him by the sword...  
unbelievable slaughter."

Yazid : Why then have you killed him if

he is as you say and has the best ancestor ?  
Do you praise him in front of me and  
wish, after that, my reward ?

Shlmr : I , I praise him ? By God I do not  
praise nothing except my act!

Yazid : I have no reward for you after  
you have made me hear your praise to him.  
By God, if it had not been for his  
head to intercede for you, you would  
have the same destiny. Leave me! Go back to Kufa, go  
back to BinZeyad and tell him to behave his men.

Shlmr : My lord!

Yazid : (Continues) With my regards and thanks.  
(Shlmr leaves from the left door.)

Sukayna : (To herself) O my father ..

Yazid : (To Sukayna) He fought us for our  
power, so God gave him what he deserves.

Zaynab : He is an obedient servant of God,  
so God took him back to Him.

Sukayna : O you ruler, do not be happy by his murder.

Yazid : (As if he is giving a summon to the present people)  
Husayn son of Ali is a sinner  
who disobeyed his leader  
and God has punished him by killing him.  
That is how his father was punished before, when he was killed .  
And God had made his daughters captives.  
This is God's punishment for him.

Zaynab : (Challenging and goes through the guards and through  
the spears and swords.)  
Do you think when you have managed  
to overcome him? Do you think God does not care for us ?  
Do you think you are favored by Him ?  
Do you think God has made you excell over us ?  
I wonder about your Ignorance, Yazid !!

Yazid : Do not continue .. I am Amlr Almuameneen.  
(grabs onto his thrown, childishy.)

Zaynab : (Continues on) And you looked to

your face happily as the events  
 went as you pleased. Did the power settle for you as  
 you oppressed more and lit the fires of hatred in the chests ?  
 And the fire asks, "Is there any more?"  
 (Yazid leaves his thrown and walks around with anger.)  
 Slow down a little, you have been blinded by your arrogance.  
 Is it just that, you son of a freed man, take the free women  
 captives ? But how can we wish for justice from you since you  
 have been raised with sins and been brought up by the liver eater,  
 and watered your flesh from the blood of the Innocents, and you  
 have blown your chest from the groaning of the hypocrites  
 thinking your humiliated arrogance is might. You have been fed  
 during your childhood the flesh of the brave ones!  
 And today you claim that your elders are the infidels of Badr ?  
 Today you remember the revenge of Badr ?!  
 Is not enough what you have done in Uhud ?!  
 You have declared that you are Muslims but in your hearts are  
 hatred and envy. I wish you were paralyzed and  
 could not speak and did not say what you have said !  
 Let all infidels go to hell fire !! O God, do not leave an oppressor,  
 a treacherous one, or a deceiver until you inflict retribution on  
 them.  
 O God, judge them with your justice, not with your mercy.  
 I pray to the One, the Supreme... I do not pray to the Forgiving, the  
 Merciful.

(Yazid who was walking back and forth, now falls drunk on the  
 throne.)

Yazid : Silence! I swear by this throne,  
 if you do not be quiet...

Zaynab : (Interrupting him) Plan your schemes  
 as you wish and be the enemy of truth.  
 After all the oppressed will have their turn.  
 Gather. Your gathering will go to pieces,  
 and your days will be few. The rule of the unjust will  
 never last. And our memory will remain  
 And our spirit will be everlasting.

Yazid : I swear by this throne if you don't be quiet...

Zaynab : (Interrupting) No matter who you think you are,  
 by the Lord of mighty power, you are nothing to me.  
 O how sorry I am that the party of God is killed  
 and the party of evil is ruling. Their mouths are chewing  
 the flesh of the prophets. Their hands are filled with the  
 blood of the pious. O how sorry I am that I am in front

of you. Life turned us down that I am here talking to you.  
 We were subjected to misery that made us face men  
 and we are violated. The enemy drives us from town to  
 town as if we were slaves!! O how sorry I am that the pure  
 bodies are spread on the rocks without graves.  
 (Finally exhausted) What can I say ?  
 And all the tears of the earth can not keep down what is in my

chest.

Yazid : (Holding himself and laughing)  
 "O what a cry that should be  
 appraised among these lamentations  
 and how much woes is there on the  
 woeful events."

Zaynab : (Rebellious) I swear by the one who  
 prescribed retaliation to straighten  
 the life that I will avenge... avenge.

Yazid : (Laughing and making fun. There is a boy  
 from among the women, Zayn al-'Abidin, comes toward him)  
 Wonderful ... wonderful !!

Zayn al-'Abidin: Are you making fun of our cries?

Yazid : And who are you ? Did not they kill  
 all Husayn's family?

A man : But he is a sick boy.

Zayn al-'Abidin: Then you do not know who I am ?  
 I am the son of Almustafa.  
 I am the son of the one who brought you guidance.  
 I am the son of the slain, I am the son of the martyr.  
 I am the son of the tortured one until death.  
 I am the son of the one who was forbidden from water  
 while, before, he was giving water to all.  
 I am the son of the Intercessor. I am the son of Almustafa

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I am the son of the one whose head was lifted on the top of a spear  
 and paraded in the streets.  
 I am the one who wore the dress of misery.

(Yazid's wife enters from the right and  
 her hair is pulled like the women of Husayn)

Yazid's wife : O, Yazid you are not my husband, you  
 will not be a husband to me from now on.

- Yazid** : (Frightened) My wife, what is the matter with you ?  
Why do you mourn ?
- The wife** : The daughters of Almustafa are mourning.  
Can't you feel sorrow for them ?  
Where are we from the daughters of the prophet?  
We would not be on this throne if it were not  
for his guidance!  
How will you meet the messenger of God  
on the day of judgment, you the killer of his family?  
I will not stay with you!  
I will not let my children stay with you.  
You are the killer of the prophet's children..
- Yazid** : (Frightened) who is the coward traitor that  
told you this about me?  
(He leaves his throne and goes to his wife.)
- The wife** : Wherever I walk in the castle, I see this pure blood.
- Zaynab** : There it is on the top of your head!  
Turn around! The shed blood covered your ankle.  
There it is like a flood that drowned your castle.  
We will not escape the revenge of Husayn BinAli.  
He is the revenge of God in us, you unhappy one!  
May God curse the bastard!  
(Yazid falls by the foot of his throne)
- The wife** : This is how we carry the shame of Bin  
Zeyad in these last days ?
- Sukayna** : (Crying) What a shame! What a shame!  
He is proud that the head of Husayn  
is his property!
- Zaynab** : Like a tyrant who has been given the head  
of a prophet as a gift !
- Yazid** : (Exhausted) All of you claiming that.  
Why? I did not kill Husayn!
- The wife** : O you liar, you lie to all people, but  
I will not buy your lies any longer.
- Yazid** : (Does not face anybody) I did not tell  
them to kill him. May God curse BinSa'd and the  
bastard. I only told them to take the pledge from him  
and if he did not, then to send him to me.

That is all I told the people of the two Iraqs  
and the people of Hejaz.  
(Yazid tries to crawl under his thrown but  
his wife is following behind him blaming him.)

- The wife : May God be my witness. He is lying !  
A king who owns whatever he wants and still lies !  
A tyrant who does whatever he wants, then escapes.  
(Facing Yazid as he crawls to the throne)  
O liar, do you know what is going on over there?  
(With fear) they have stolen Husayn's head.  
(Shouting) Husayn's head has disappeared!  
I will not stay with you!  
I will take my children and go to safety,  
away from your destiny (leaves quickly from  
the right side of the stage.)
- Yazid : (Fearfully) They have stolen the head of Husayn ?  
(Collapses drunk on the throne).
- Zaynab : It swam over the night like a flaming ball  
It flew on a cloud to send lights to the ones who weep and fire to  
those who did not weep. There it is, the head of Husayn.  
Look and think (as she talks to the emptiness)  
O the head of my brother!  
O the head of the martyr!  
O the head of the hero!  
O the head of the martyr of the truth!  
Be a flag to the oppressed!  
(shouting from the window that looks over Damascus)  
Rise up to save the world from chaos.  
Rise up because we have had enough.  
Enough humiliation and cowardliness.  
There it is, the bloody flag of truth.  
There it is, the flame of justice waning down.  
There it is, the fear which became a ruler  
that rules frightened hearts.  
There it is, the hope which is dying.  
There it is, the dawn which has been stabbed.  
Rise up and save the world from insane oppression.
- Yazid : (with great fear and trying to escape)  
O you guards, go and look every  
where and bring back to me the head  
of the son of Ali!  
Not go all of you (frightened) do  
not leave me alone... Surround me ...  
Guard me!



- Zaynab** : O you monarch, where do you go from  
your shame? There is no escape I  
The flood of the blood of the pious is all around you,  
and above it float the bodies of the killed ones.  
It wants the revenge of God from you.  
I swear by God that I seek revenge from you.
- Yazid** : (Goes outside and trying to hold on to  
the left door and the right door with  
his men around him.)  
Silence her! Bring back the head of Husayn.
- Zaynab** : (Follows him) And death will come one  
day no matter how long you live.  
There is no use in escaping from your death I  
There is death behind you II
- Yazid** : Silence her! Shut her up!  
(His hands on his head) Beware  
from mentioning death in front of me.
- Zaynab** : There is no use in escaping from the day of punishment.  
I hear behind the night the cries of victory.
- Yazid** : Take her back to Kufa so they can  
gather the body parts of Husayn.  
Take them away from me so their  
voices will not reach my ears.  
(Leaves from the right door.) Take  
them far from here, O you dogs.
- Zaynab** : (Looks at the guards and the rest  
of the remaining men.)  
O I wonder how people, for the love  
of this life, get humiliated, and  
this life is not forever!  
And at the end they end up under the  
earth where fear has no say in what  
they are doing, where there is nothing except the  
shade of tranquillity, where greed does not bend  
men who are weak.  
Death is the greatest freedom, if only  
people can realize it.  
Where there is nothing except safety  
with God for whoever comes with a  
penitent heart. Where there is no ridicule  
to the pride of wise. Where there is no head  
of a guardian or a prophet to be given as a gift  
to a tyrant, or the men of the inner circle of the

throne humiliate the honest, or a friend to the  
castle eats on the flesh of the pious.  
Where the hearts live above hatred and love  
and above pride, safe from the dagger, poison, and  
treacherous friends.  
(All men come to the front and the  
women pull their hair and every  
body beats on their chests.)

Men and women: Do not look for the head of Husayn  
in the East or West. The head resides in my heart.  
The head of Husayn is here in my heart.  
Take the revenge of Husayn!  
O for the revenge of Husayn!

Men : The revenge of God!  
The revenge of God!  
God .. God!

## The Sixth Scene

(A flaming desert where the sun is setting down, desert like the desert in which Husayn had died thirsty at Karbala.. The time is about five years from the previous scene. Yazid is looking more pale, and he is going around the place between its heights and lows fearfully.)

Yazid : Where is my monkey ?? Where is  
my Tiger I??  
Where are my friends ? Where is  
the trainer of the tiger and the trainer  
of the monkey ? Where ?  
I told them to leave me alone with  
my tiger and my monkey so I  
can race them.  
And we raced for two hours and  
I did not hunt anything and both  
the tiger and the monkey are lost now.  
My monkey BinQabeese was riding  
over a mule and he won the race  
against all horses !!  
(Shouting from a hill) O my men,  
where are you ?  
Save me.  
O my God I There is nothing except  
for the echoes.  
They will not hear me.  
All of them have lost the way !!  
Where did I come from? Which way ?  
From here? No... From there ?  
There is nothing here except for  
sand and rocks.  
Here .. here in the desert of Alsham  
where there is no water, no shade,  
not even horses.  
O .. there is no water here .. only  
an ocean of sand !!  
(Tries to drink from pitcher that hangs  
on his clothes but he throws it away.)  
O, all the alcohol is finished ..  
I am thirsty .. and there is fire inside  
me and in my mouth.  
Is there a drop that can put down  
this thirst ?  
Where is the water, the alcohol, and

shade !  
 (Tries to lie under a rock)  
 Let me stay in the shade of this rock  
 until they come back ..  
 (Turns around) They will not come !  
 Woe be to them .. Where is the shade?  
 (Stands anxious) A desert abandoned by shadell  
 (Searches the place) Where is my horse?  
 The horse was there !  
 I saw her drinking water from there  
 a while ago.  
 (Shouting) There, there is water on the horizon !  
 And the green fields under the clouds ..  
 There is a shade far away from here  
 (Runs, then falls down) No .. take it  
 easy Yazid.  
 This is nothing but a mirage.  
 There is nothing left here except for echoes.  
 And the flame of the sun and loneliness  
 in this wilderness.  
 There is nothing here left except for  
 torture.  
 All has left and nothing is left here  
 except for loss, loneliness and the pain  
 of thirst.  
 (Digging in the earth)  
 O Husayn son of Ali, by God  
 how did you bear thirst ?  
 Did you experience like me the  
 misery of mirages.  
 It is insane!  
 (Shouting) My mouth is dry .. O my God  
 (Stands shouting) Is there a horse  
 to save me from my loneliness?  
 Is there a drop of water to quench my thirst?  
 (Collapses on the ground)

An echo of Zaynab's  
 voice :

O monarch, where do you go from  
 your shame .. there is no escape  
 for you.  
 The flood of the blood of the pious  
 surrounds you.  
 And you will end up in a wilderness  
 whose mouth openings are the grave  
 And the one you killed will walk  
 towards you.  
 There it is the head of Husayn  
 slapping you.

(Yazid imagines as if he sees the shadow of Husayn wearing white clothes and having a bright face, surrounded by domes of lights just as in the dreams when he imagines the people of heaven ... The shadow stands above the highest hill and talks to Yazid in a normal tone, very calmly)

- Yazid : Thirst ? O my God I am about to die from thirst.
- Husayn : We also died thirsty.
- Yazid : (Frightened from him) Who is there? Who are you? Do you have water?
- Husayn : I am only a shadow of Husayn, son of Ali.
- Yazid : (Frightened) Husayn son of Ali ?  
O how much you suffered from the heat and thirst.  
By God, how did you overcome the heat of thirst ?  
(Then shouting with fear)  
How? No... No!  
You have been slain five years ago  
I have hung your head in the markets.  
Impossible .. You are not ..  
(crying) O I am hallucinating from thirst .. Woe is me .. I became insane ..
- Husayn : O Yazid, one like me does not die  
A past that does not go away.
- Yazid : (Goes around frightened)  
The ghosts had risen in their shrouds throwing curses on me and all my victims had disintegrated in the graves. Are you my judges? Who is that ? Who is there ?  
(His Imagination is mixed up)
- Husayn : True, they are your victims.  
But they are also your friends!  
Do you know what has happened to your friends while you are here playing with your monkey and

- your tiger.
- Yazid : (Shouting) Let them all die  
(Asking) A drop of water,  
a horse, so I can get out of her.
- Husayn : You will not be saved from this  
hunting trip.  
Stop. Look. Don't you know  
who is that ?  
(on another hill, 'Umar binSa'd  
appears pale in front of Almukhtar  
with a dimmed strange light, like  
the dreamy kind of haze.)
- Yazid : This is 'Umar, the one who  
let you become thirsty ?  
He is the one who killed you.  
He is from among your relatives.  
(Begging.) Give me water and  
leave me alone!  
(the light becomes stronger on  
Almukhtar and 'Umar in front  
of him, humiliated.)
- 'Umar : (to Mukhtar) What are you going  
to do with me ?
- Mukhtar : Did you become the ruler of Rayy  
and Jurjan?
- 'Umar : No .. But I experienced all kinds  
of humiliation.
- Mukhtar : (Laughing) So you killed the best  
of the people for nothing, free!
- 'Umar : O Mukhtar, this is not the time  
for joking.
- Mukhtar : Do not hurry up your death, how  
were you told to die?
- 'Umar : That I will be slain in my bed ?  
And my head will be thrown  
to the kids in Kufa.
- Mukhtar : Then go to your bed!

- `Umar : (Very humiliated) O Forgiver,  
I am repenting from all that I did..  
Have mercy on me .. Don't you  
forgive me ?
- Mukhtar : Forgiveness and mercy from the  
Beneficent, O you Infidel.
- `Umar : I am repenting to God.
- Mukhtar : Now you are repenting, and before  
you disobeyed God?  
How about the revenge of our Imam  
who has been killed thirsty ?  
And Muslim and he is from your  
relatives, you treacherous one ?
- Yazid : Does `Umar get killed like that ?  
Where are his men ?  
Where is his leader BinZeyad ?
- A man : (Coming happily towards Mukhtar)  
O Mukhtar, we have killed the  
oppressor BinZeyad
- Mukhtar : (As if he is calling)  
Make the head of the bastard go  
around all of Iraq, then send it to  
Damascus so the proud, treacherous,  
and arrogant knows that God is right.
- A man : (To Mukhtar) We have killed Shmr  
and we made the head of the cursed,  
transgressor go around from house  
to house. (Mukhtar disappears and  
every one with him. A man from `Umar's  
army lifts a pitcher to drink water but the water  
comes out from his mouth and as  
much as he drinks, as much as the  
water comes out from his mouth.)
- The man : Woe is me .. woe is me.
- Yazid : What is wrong with this man, he drinks  
as much as he drinks but does not  
get quenched and the water comes out  
from his mouth ?
- Husayn : He has made the women and the

children thirsty as he was guarding  
the water... so he will not get quenched  
for ever..

He will die like that, thirsty.

(The man disappears and the setting  
sun returns and fills the place with its  
flame mixed with the darkness of  
the sky and Husayn is surrounded  
with a halo of dreamy light on the  
top of the hill, alone.)

- Yazid : (Shouting as he goes around)  
O you men! Come forward to save me!  
I am here the great king! I am Yazid!  
I am your lord ... Amir Almuameneen!
- Husayn : They will not save you. It is hell.  
They will not save you, there is  
no escape from hell.
- Yazid : (Shouting) I am dying from thirst.  
(Begging) I am thirsty .. O you  
believers! (Shouts and goes around)  
I am going insane from thirst.  
Is there a way to some water.
- Husayn : No Yazid, your drink will be only  
from boiling water.
- Yazid : I am thirsty, I am dying in this  
lonely desert. I feel fire inside me.  
I am a prince who owns thousands  
of rivers, how can I die thirsty?  
Do I die thirsty and all the Nile  
belongs to me?  
And I own the Tigris and the Euphrates  
And here is the Barada, how can I die thirsty ?  
I will give all my throne for a cup of water !!  
Who will sell to the thirsty a cup of water for a throne !!  
O you water givers: One cup for a whole kingdom !!  
(Continues to go around hysterically.)  
A horse to save me and take me to the rooms of bliss.  
A horse for all my kingdom (falls down) A drink to save me  
But how can I have it? (Falls behind one of the rocks)  
While some calls gets louder from afar. Some men enter and  
fill the place and on top of them is Mukhtar, and Husayn stands  
on top of a hill overlooking them and surrounded by the hazy light)



- The men : O for the revenge of Husayn.  
O for the revenge of Husayn son of Ali.
- Mukhtar : We have taken the revenge of God  
from all the oppressors.  
We will not forget Husayn, son of Ali.
- The men : O for the revenge of Husayn.  
O for the revenge of God.  
O for the revenge of Husayn.
- Mukhtar : (To the men) Remember God all  
the time and remember Husayn.  
for he is the revenge of God in us.
- Husayn : Remember not by shedding the blood of others.  
But by saving truth from going astray.  
By fighting in the way of God  
so that justice will prevail.  
Remember me when the truth becomes  
alone alone and sad.  
And when the walls of the city do  
not protect the people but protect  
the leaders and their followers.  
Remember me when grace becomes  
a stranger.  
And sins become braced.  
And if you were ruled from the  
castles of the singers.  
Remember me when bravery  
gets mixed with foolishness  
And when profit becomes the  
balance of friendship.  
And when nobility becomes insane.  
And when eloquence gets crushed by nonsense.  
And when truth becomes paralyzed by swords.  
Remember me when falsehood gets mixed with honesty.  
Remember me when reality gets mistaken for imagination,  
and when cowardliness becomes the sign of the man,  
and when lying, falsehood, and fabrication become the  
signs of success.  
Remember me in the tears.  
Remember me when the disgraced  
become powerful.  
Remember me when your stomach  
gets filled by the cries of debts.  
And when the transgressors rule  
the believers.

And when the chirping of the birds  
 disappears to be replaced by shouts  
 of the crow.  
 And when the cheers prevail above  
 the mourning.  
 And when the truth knocks down.  
 Remember me.  
 And when the calls in the green  
 prairie become calls for animosity.  
 And when the tone of brotherhood  
 disappears.  
 And when the poor complain and  
 the pockets of the rich are filled,  
 remember me.  
 Remember me when the Ignorant  
 becomes a scholar,  
 and the scholar becomes disgraced,  
 and the wise gets humiliated,  
 and the humiliated gets appraised,  
 and when food remains on the table  
 and is not wanted,  
 and when the tongue talks what the  
 conscience refuses, remember me.  
 Remember me when you see your  
 rulers lying and oppressing, and deceiving,  
 and when the influential people  
 become hypocrites, and your guardians are  
 afraid of the power and do not protect the weak,  
 and the brave men become half the men they were,  
 and when the courageous man bends,  
 and if you see a man of grace  
 get punished by your ruler for what he said,  
 and if you become afraid to say  
 the truth between your family  
 and between your friends, then remember me.  
 And when you get attacked and you are watching  
 the attackers take advantage of your land and your  
 youngsters, then remember me. Remember me when  
 all that happens then rise up in the name of life to  
 lift the flag of justice and truth.  
 Remember my great revenge to take it from the oppressors  
 and that is how life becomes victorious  
 If you are silent against deceit,  
 and pleased with your humiliation,  
 Then I will be slain again,  
 and be killed again,  
 and continue to be killed every  
 day a thousand times.  
 I will be killed again whenever

the brave become silent and  
the patient turns away.  
I will be killed whenever people  
get humiliated and Some Yazid is ruling you,  
and he does whatever he wants,  
and his followers are oppressing  
you and they are the worst servants,  
and the wound of the martyr remains,  
cursing you regardless of how long it  
takes, because you have not achieved  
the revenge of the martyr.  
So seek the revenge of the martyr.



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## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اول من ما غ مقل الامام الحسين (ع) في قالب شعبي رواهني فيما نعلم .  
هو الكاتب المصري عبد الرحمن الشرقاوى (١٩٢٠-١٩٨٧) وقد فراغا في المكتبة  
المصرية . و قد اعتمد في صياغتها على المراجع التاريخية المحققة كما صرح  
هو في الصفحة ١٢١ و ان لم يذكرها بالتفصيل .  
و قد طبع الكتاب في تسعين بمنوان الحسين ثائرا و الحسين شعيدا في  
القاهرة في ذى الحجة ١٣٨٨ (فبراير ١٩٦٩) . و لم نجد طبعة اخرى لهذا الكتاب  
و لعل السبب يكمن فيما اشار اليه الكاتب المصري مصطفى عبد الغني في  
دراسته حول الشرقاوى الصفحة ١٥٢ بما نصه : (الحسين شعيدا نشرت في صحيفة  
الجمهورية ٢٠ و الجدير بالذكر ان العرض الغني الذي قبل الاقتتاح بيومين  
و ذالك بناء على تدخل جمعية دينية خارج مصر) و هذا النص يكشف ان القلم  
المصري كان مراقبا من خارج مصر و محاصرا بايد مصرية .  
و ايماننا منا بالهدف السامي الحسيني و في حدود طاقاتنا المحدودة  
ننشر هذا القسم من الكتاب على امل ان يقوم باحياء الكتاب محققا من يجد  
في نفسه القدرة و الكفائة .

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الحسين شهيداً  
مسرحية شعرية في ٦ مناظر

تأليف: عبدالرحمن الشقار



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